

INSIDE TODAY

## Dissent in OPEC

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — OPEC's stunning admission of major dissent within its ranks has left it reeling and its status as the world's oil power-broker tarnished, perhaps beyond repair. But is a weakened cartel good or bad for consumers? The major question is what will happen to oil prices in the long term as a newly strengthened Iran takes on traditional OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia in what some see as a proxy attack on the United States, the Saudis' ally and Iran's longtime foe. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which sells more than a third of the world's crude, has commonly been seen as a price regulator, pumping more or less as it deemed fit and leading to complaints of price fixing from major consumers. But market realities show a different picture — of an OPEC that has less impact on U.S. and other consumers than in previous decades. Even before Wednesday's abortive OPEC session on whether to raise output, its members were breaking their quotas, putting an additional 1.5 million barrels of oil a day on the market. That should have brought down prices. Instead, for weeks prices continued to hover around \$100 per barrel. And news that OPEC was in trouble Wednesday resulted in a small upward blip reflecting a market focused more on supply and less on the group's possible demise. "There was a time when rumors of the break-up of OPEC would have sent the oil price plummeting," said a Monument Securities research note.

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Republican presidential hopeful, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich's campaign manager and numerous other key aides resigned together on Thursday, a strong blow to his hopes for the Republican presidential nomination. (AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

JEFF ZELENY

TRIP GABRIEL

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WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich's presidential campaign imploded Thursday as his top advisers banded together and resigned, setting off a further exodus of aides and supporters and battering his hopes of a political comeback.

Gingrich vowed to carry on, saying that he was "committed to running the substantive, solutions-oriented campaign I set out to run earlier this spring."

But the departure of more than a dozen aides, including his entire Iowa operation, left him, for now at least, crippled in his ability to do much more than appear at debates or other public forums at a time when his main rivals were busy raising money and building organizations in crucial states. And it injected fresh uncertainty into the Republican nominating contest amid continued talk that further

candidates might jump in.

Gingrich's senior strategists confronted him Thursday after he returned from a two-week vacation with his wife, Callista, which included a cruise through the Greek isles. Gingrich defended his holiday as a chance to "get away and think," but aides chastised him, they said, for lacking the discipline to run a focused presidential campaign that could overcome rising doubts about his candidacy. "The professional team came to the realization that the direction of the campaign they sought and Newt's vision for the campaign were incompatible," said David Carney, a senior strategist who was among those who submitted resignations Thursday afternoon.

Many Republicans had long seen Gingrich as something of a vanity candidate — not really expecting to win the party's nomination but viewing the race as an opportunity to draw attention to his pol-

icy ideas, books and documentaries. His aides described him and his wife as not doing enough to dedicate themselves to the hard work and the unglamorous aspects of running for president.

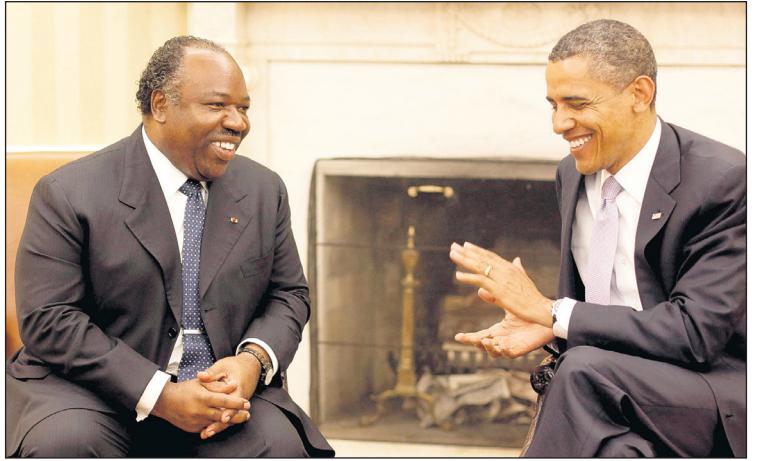
For some candidates, the departure of an entrenched team of advisers could provide an opportunity to regroup, but Gingrich could face tougher going. His aides said he is struggling to raise money, recruit staff and be seen as a top-tier candidate.

Former Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia, a national co-chairman of the Gingrich campaign, withdrew his endorsement and said he would support Tim Pawlenty, a former governor of Minnesota.

The shakeup surrounding Gingrich shined a new light on the intentions of Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, who is taking a serious look at joining the Republican presidential race.

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# Obama welcomes Gabon president to Oval Office



President Barack Obama meets with Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, Thursday, June 9, 2011, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

**DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama urged the president of the central African nation of Gabon on Thursday to help expose corruption and reform the judiciary and other institutions in his country to protect hu-

man rights.

Obama also complimented President Ali Bongo on reforms put in place during his tenure to help make the government more open and accountable, the White House said in a statement after the private Oval Office meeting. Besides good governance,

they discussed Libya, Sudan and Ivory Coast, along with environmental protection and the economy.

They also expressed a shared desire to see a democratic transition begin in Libya, where rebels are battling to overthrow longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Bongo's oil-rich country holds the rotating presidency of the U.N. Security Council. The son of Gabon's late dictator, who ruled for 41 years until his death in 2009, Bongo won a contested presidential election a few months later that many observers said was flawed, even fraudulent, and triggered widespread violence.

Before meeting with Obama, Bongo insisted to The Associated Press in an interview that his government has strong institutions and is building a democratic system. □

## Gingrich campaign staff quits en masse, citing conflicts

**Continued From Front Page**

Carney and Rob Johnson, the campaign manager — have also worked for Perry and could now play a key role in his decision.

Perry is scheduled to appear before Republican audiences next week in California, New York and Louisiana, all of which offer an opportunity for him to explore the fundraising potential should he decide to move forward with a candidacy.

His spokesman, Mark Miner, said the resignation by Gingrich's aides would not affect Perry's choice.

The breakup of the Gingrich team, which included a top-to-bottom slate of aides in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Washington and Georgia, provided one of the biggest jolts yet to the 2012 Republican presidential campaign.

During a conference call Wednesday, top strategists confronted Gingrich, 67, over what they believed was a lack of focus. They demanded



Employee Miguelina Vassak of Hudson, third from left, looks back after having her picture taken with Republican presidential hopeful, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, left, and Callista Gingrich, second from left, at C&M Machine Products in Hudson, N.H. Gingrich's campaign manager and numerous other key aides resigned together on Thursday, a strong blow to his hopes for the Republican presidential nomination.

(AP Photo/Cheryl Senter)

that he spend 90 percent of his time in three early-voting states and curtail distractions like screenings of his documentaries.

To underscore their complaint, Gingrich was taking the call from New Hampshire, where he was not introducing himself to voters who will take part in the nation's first pri-

mary next year but rather promoting a documentary on Pope John Paul II that he made with his wife.

His arrival in New Hampshire marked his first public appearance in two weeks.

While he was away on a cruise to Rhodes, Mykonos and other Greek islands, Gingrich said that he wrote two policy speeches. □

## Dissent within OPEC erodes cartel's power

**Continued From Front Page**

"But the realities of global supply and demand have been such ... that OPEC has lost control over the crude oil market." OPEC's role as a regulator of prices and supplies has been further weakened by the internal squabbling that characterized their latest meeting. National interests led to deadlock among the 12 OPEC nations, when Iran and others stymied a bid by Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies to increase output at a time of world economic weakness. Rejecting a rise in output keeps oil prices high — about \$101 on Thursday — not only filling Iran's coffers with profits but possibly even kicking the legs out from under a feeble U.S. economic recovery.

Marco Ostwald of Monument Securities declared OPEC "on the point of break-up," while a research note from Cameron Hanover said the Iran-led opposition to raising output was about "sticking it to the Saudis and psychologically sticking it to the US."

For most OPEC members, common sense dictates that the cartel should at least try to work together, meaning there will be some fence-mending efforts in the coming months. "I think there were some tensions," said Jason Schenker, president of Prestige Economics. "But everyone has to do business and countries have different views on what the future of demand looks like." Still, the cartel will never be the same. Wednesday's meeting exposed the bickering that OPEC nations usually are at pains to hide and shattered the image that OPEC is a monolith acting with a single will to squeeze an energy-hungry world. Members clashed amid the challenges of Mideast unrest and a stubbornly weak world economy that cannot afford pricey crude but still needs more oil to spark an upswing. Analysts with decades of attending OPEC meetings said they could not remember such a frank acknowledgment of deadlock from the secretive 51-year-old organization. □



"There were meetings where OPEC could not come to an agreement on a change of policy, meetings where the wishes of Saudi Arabia were not met," said Olivier Jakob of Petromatrix. "(But) we don't recall a meeting that just split up ... followed by all sorts of name calling." Breaking OPEC's code of silence, Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi named participants opposed to the Saudi-led drive to lower prices by pumping more crude.

Calling Wednesday's session "one of the worst meetings we've ever had," he underscored the message that OPEC unity was dead — at least for now — and served notice that the Saudis will sell more oil alone if they have to. Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia has long vied with Shiite-rule Iran for regional dominance and the two have often been at loggerheads over pricing. OPEC, however, usually falls in behind Saudi Arabia, which produces the lion's share of OPEC output, but not this time. Some OPEC leaders worry that civil wars in Libya and Yemen could spill over to their countries. Mindful of the overthrow of Egypt's and Tunisia's rulers, they welcome prices of \$100 a barrel and above as a way to increase social spending and placate restive populations. At the same time, OPEC is already overproducing well above its official quota of nearly 25 million barrels a day. Outside of the Saudis and their three Gulf allies, most members simply can't raise output to around a daily 30 million barrels, as sought by Riyadh. □

# Defense nominee Panetta demurs on Afghanistan drawdown

ELISABETH BUMILLER

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**WASHINGTON** - Leon E. Panetta, President Barack Obama's nominee to be secretary of defense, deflected persistent questions Thursday about one of the most pressing issues at the Pentagon, the scope of the American troop withdrawals from Afghanistan next month.

**Panetta, who is now director of the Central Intelligence Agency, did say during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee that he agreed with a recent statement by Obama that the troop withdrawals should be "significant."**

But Panetta, who would be expected to publicly echo the president, did not define "significant" or offer any hint of his own opinion about how many troops should come home in July, when he is scheduled to be in his new office at the Pentagon.

He also declined to say whether he agreed with recent and repeated statements from the departing defense secretary, Robert M. Gates, that American withdrawals in July should be "modest." (Gates kept it up Thursday in Brussels, where he assured NATO that "there will be no



Defense Secretary nominee, CIA Director Leon Panetta, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 9, 2011, before the Senate Armed Service Committee hearing on his nomination. Panetta deflected persistent questions Thursday about the scope of the American troop withdrawals from Afghanistan next month.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

rush to the exits" and that military pressure on the Taliban would not relent for at least six months.)

At one point in the Senate committee hearing, Panetta even said, to the irritation of Sen. John McCain, that the decision on how many troops to be withdrawn in July would be in the hands of Obama, Gates and Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, rather than his own. Obama is expected to announce the number this month. Gates' last day in the job will be June 30, and Panetta is to take over on July 1. "If I'm confirmed, I'll have to obviously arrive at a decision myself," Panetta told McCain, R-Ariz. "I'm not in that position now. Obviously, I have tremendous admiration for

Secretary Gates. But with regards to specific numbers ..."

At that point McCain cut him off. "I wasn't asking for specific numbers," he shot back. Overall, the hearing was a pro-forma step on the way to all but certain confirmation by the Senate – and a celebration of Panetta, a creature of Washington who has served here as a congressman, a White House chief of staff, a White House budget director, a member of the Iraq Study Group and most recently as the director of a spy agency with ever closer ties to the military.

His nomination and the revolving jobs of the men around him reflect the melding of the military and intelligence worlds since the attacks of Sept. 11: Petraeus is Obama's nominee to replace Panetta at

the CIA and Gates, a longtime friend of Panetta's, is a former CIA director. Panetta, a former Army intelligence officer, has a son, James, who is a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve and was awarded a Bronze Star for his work as an intelligence analyst in Afghanistan in 2008. Panetta was Gates' choice to succeed him at the Pentagon. Not surprisingly, Panetta sounded a lot like Gates when he spoke in the hearing of holding a line on defense budget cuts, remaining vigilant against al-Qaida and sustaining the strongest military in the world. "Secretary Gates and I pretty much walk hand in hand on these issues," he said.

The warm bath of the hearing began when Panetta was introduced to the committee by

Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, the two senators, both Democrats, from California, which is Panetta's home state. "Good luck, and I hope the committee does this quickly," Boxer said after describing Panetta as her mentor and "very smart, and he gets it." Panetta, who last month oversaw the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, told the committee that Pakistan remained a serious problem for the United States, because insurgents based in that country's northwest frontier areas were fighting the U.S. military across the border in Afghanistan. The United States has been asking the government of Pakistan for years to flush out the insurgents, with very little success. □

## 2 men found guilty in murder of US journalist

TERRY COLLINS

Associated Press

**OAKLAND, California (AP)** — A jury on Thursday found the leader of a financially troubled community group and another man guilty of murder in the daytime shooting of the first American journalist killed on U.S. soil for reporting a story in more than a decade.

Yusuf Bey IV, former head of Your Black Muslim Bakery, also was convicted in the murders of two other men in a month-long spree of violence that culminated with the fatal August 2007 shooting of 57-year-old Chauncey Bailey while he walked to the newspaper where he was investigating the financial woes of Bey's group. Jurors also found co-defendant Antoine Mackey guilty in the murders of Bailey and 36-year-old Michael Wills, but deadlocked on a murder charge against him in the death of 31-year-old Odell Roberson Jr.

"Justice has finally been done," Bailey's cous-

in, Wendy Ashley-Johnson, said outside court. "Now Chauncey can rest. This chapter is over." Founded some 40 years ago by Bey's father, the bakery, which promoted self-empowerment, became an institution in Oakland's black community while running a security service, school and other businesses. In recent years, the organization was tainted by connections to criminal activity.

Prosecutors argued that Bey felt he was above the law and was so desperate to protect the legacy of his family's once-influential bakery that he ordered Bailey murdered. The Oakland Post editor had been working on a story about the organization's finances as it descended toward bankruptcy.

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said the verdicts affirmed "our abiding conviction that violence against the free voice of the press will not be tolerated in our society." □

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# Chicago man convicted in plot against Danish paper

SOPHIA TAREEN

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal jury convicted a Chicago businessman on Thursday of helping plot an attack against a Danish newspaper that had printed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad but cleared him of the most serious charge that accused him of cooperating in the deadly 2008 rampage in Mumbai.

The jury reached its verdict after two days of deliberations, finding Tahawwur Rana guilty of providing material support to terrorism in Denmark and to the Pakistani militant group that had claimed responsibility for the three-day siege in India's largest city that left more than 160 people dead, including six Americans.

The jurors, who were not identified in court, declined to talk to the media to explain their split verdict. Rana, a Canadian national who has lived in Chicago for years, faces up to 30 years in prison on the two charges.

"We're extremely disappointed. We think they got it wrong," defense attorney Patrick Blegen told reporters.

At the center of the trial was testimony by the government's star witness, David Coleman Headley, Rana's longtime friend who had previously pleaded guilty to lay-

ing the groundwork for the Mumbai attacks and helping plot the attack against the Danish paper. That attack was never carried out.

Rana, who did not testify, was

Mumbai as a cover story while Headley conducted surveillance ahead of the November 2008 attacks. He was also accused of letting Headley travel as a representative of the



**U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber talks with reporters after a jury returned its verdict in the trial of Chicago businessman Tahawwur Rana on Thursday, June 9, 2011 in Chicago. A federal jury convicted Rana of helping plot an attack against a Danish newspaper that printed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad but cleared him of the most serious charge accusing him of cooperating in the deadly 2008 rampage in Mumbai. The jury reached its verdict after two days of deliberations, finding Rana guilty of providing material support to terrorism in Denmark and to the Pakistani militant group that had claimed responsibility for the three-day siege in India's largest city that left more than 160 people dead, including six Americans.**

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

on trial for allegedly allowing Headley to open a branch of his Chicago-based immigration law services business in

company in Copenhagen. The trial was highly anticipated because of Headley's testimony. □

## U.S. Briefs

### Receivership sought for USVI prison

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department filed a motion Thursday seeking to take full control of a troubled prison in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The department said in a statement that it had been trying to get the islands' Bureau of Corrections to improve the Golden Grove jail on St. Croix for 25 years.

"We cannot continue to allow prisoners to live in unsafe, filthy and hazardous conditions without constitutionally required medical and mental health care," said Ronald Sharpe, the islands' U.S. attorney. The Justice Department said it is the first time that its civil rights division has requested receivership of a prison. An official who answered the phone at the Golden Grove prison referred all questions to Bureau of Corrections director Julius Wilson, who could not be reached for comment. □

### Adrian becomes major hurricane in the Pacific

MIAMI (AP) — Forecasters say Hurricane Adrian has strengthened to a powerful Category 4 storm off the Pacific coast of Mexico but is still expected to stay offshore. Forecasters say maximum sustained winds for the first hurricane of the 2011 season increased Thursday evening to about 130 mph (209 kph). The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami predicts that the storm's center will stay well offshore. The center of the storm was about 320 miles (515 kilometers) south of Manzanillo, Mexico. □

### Malcolm X daughter pleads guilty to theft

NEW YORK (AP) — A daughter of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X was released from jail Thursday after pleading guilty to stealing the identity of an elderly family friend to run up more than \$55,000 in credit card bills. Malikah Shabazz, 46, walked free after entering the plea at a courthouse in Queens. She had been in custody since her arrest in North Carolina on Feb. 18. Her deal with prosecutors calls for her to pay back the money and be on probation for five years.

"She's excited to be reunited with her daughter," said her lawyer, Russell Rothberg. He said his client had no other comment. The youngest of Malcolm X's children, Shabazz could have gotten years in prison if convicted. □

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## Alabama passes tough illegal-immigration law

BOB JOHNSON  
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) — Alabama on Thursday enacted what is being called the most restrictive law in the U.S. against illegal immigration, requiring schools to find out if students are in the country lawfully and making it a crime to knowingly give an illegal immigrant a ride.

Advocacy groups promised to challenge the sweeping measure, which like Arizona's law also allows police to arrest anyone suspected of being an illegal immigrant if the person is stopped for some other reason. In addition, it requires all businesses to check the legal status of workers using a federal system called E-Verify.

"It is clearly unconstitutional. It's mean-spirited, racist, and we think a court will enjoin it," said Mary Bauer, legal director for the Southern Poverty Law Center.

It takes effect Sept. 1.

Republican Gov. Robert Bentley, who signed it into law Thursday, expressed confidence it would withstand any legal challenges.

"We have a real problem with illegal immigration in this country," he said. "I campaigned for the toughest immigration laws, and I'm proud of the legislature for working tirelessly to create the strongest immigration bill in the country."

Alabama has an estimated 120,000 illegal immigrants, a nearly fivefold increase from a decade ago, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. Many of them are believed to be working on farms, at chicken processing plants and in construction.

Alabama's Hispanic population more than doubled between 2000 and 2010 to 186,000, or 3.9 percent of the state's nearly 4.8 million people, according to the Census. Figures were not available on their legal status.

One of the legislation's sponsors, Republican Sen. Scott Beason, said it would help the unemployed by preventing illegal immigrants from getting jobs in the state. Alabama's

unemployment rate stood at 9.3 percent in April, the most recent figure available.

"This will put thousands of Alabamians back in the work force," Beason said. The Alabama Business Council has not taken a public stand on the law. In neighboring Georgia, some farmers and

business owners warned that a crackdown passed recently in that state would make it more difficult to hire the laborers they rely on — many of whom are illegal immigrants. The Alabama measure instantly puts the state at the forefront of the immigration debate. □



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## Another day, another sex scandal

JOANNA WEISS

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ONCE, I knew a man who wandered into a Ford dealership and, on a whim, drove out with a bright red Expedition. (This was the '90s. Gas prices were low.) Yes, he was sheepish, since had no practical need for a car the size of a military cargo plane. But he shrugged, half-jokingly, that he'd been helpless to stop. He was a man.

The hormones made him do it.

It's hardly news that a certain part of the male anatomy has the power to override logic and brainpower. That's the only explanation for why US Representative Anthony Weiner, an accomplished, intelligent man, just did what might rank as one of the stupidest things in the history of Earth.

PR types are saying that Weiner should check into rehab, claim it was some kind of pathology that made him send out photos of his crotch. The women of America won't buy that for a second. All we have to do is look at the long, bipartisan stream of male politicians who have risked their careers for prostitutes or affairs - or, in Weiner's case, weirdly chaste electronic relationships, in which he thought it would be clever and seductive to photograph himself beside some cats.



INSIDE  
edition

In this photo provided by "Inside Edition" Lisa Weiss, a blackjack dealer from Las Vegas, reacts while being interviewed in Las Vegas Tuesday, June 7, 2011, by Jim Moret for an "Inside Edition" broadcast. Weiss, 40, admitted to sexting with Congressman Anthony Weiner. (AP Photo/Inside Edition)

This isn't an illness. It's a problem - some combination of a politican problem, and a testosterone problem.

Clearly, in Weiner's case, there was a yawning gap between his impulses and his sense of self-control. The type of political profile he sought out - pugnacious crusader, cable-talk king - suggests that his ego may have been as needy as his nether region.

Which means he needed constant validation. Physique aside, Weiner has a lot in common with Tiger Woods, an athlete who constantly chased the next win, who

needed constant risk and constant conquest. He had won, to mix sports metaphors, the Super Bowl of marriage, to a woman who is beautiful and smart. That didn't stop him from pursuing the fantasy life of a 16-year-old boy.

That's a fascinating, confounding glimpse of human nature, which is why we're so interested when it happens again and again. (And to people who gripe that the media should focus on "important" things, instead: Should we turn back time to the Kennedy days, when the press kept politicians' secrets, too?) □

## Somali man faces terror-related charges

AMY FORLITI,  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Somali man who lived in Minnesota until a few months ago has been charged with providing money and people to the terror group al-Shabaab in Somalia, according to an indictment unsealed Thursday.

Ahmed Hussein Mahamud, 26, was arrested Thursday at his home in Ohio and made his initial appearance in federal court there. The U.S. attorney's office says he'll be brought to Minnesota to face four counts, including providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization and conspiracy to provide such support.

Also Thursday, authorities confirmed that a Minnesota man was one of the suicide bombers in a May 30 attack in Mogadishu. The FBI said it used fingerprints to identify Farah Mohamed Beledi, 27. Mahamud is now the 18th person charged in Minnesota in connection with the travels of young men who went to Somalia to join al-Shabaab. Authorities said Mahamud, a U.S. citizen of Somali descent, lived in a Minneapolis suburb until February, then moved to Ohio.

The indictment, filed two days ago, does not accuse Mahamud of traveling to Soma-

lia, but it suggests he helped others who did. It says that from April 2009 to July 2009, Mahamud provided "money to al-Shabaab and personnel to work under al-Shabaab's direction and control, knowing that al-Shabaab has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization."

It also says he conspired with others to provide people and financial resources to al-Shabaab, from an unknown date to the present. The U.S. government says al-Shabaab has ties to al-Qaida.

More than 20 young men have traveled from Minnesota to Somalia since September 2007 to train with al-Shabaab. Authorities said many have gone on to take up arms with the terror group as it has been fighting in Somalia. Some of those men have died, including Shirwa Ahmed of Minneapolis, the first known American suicide bomber in Somalia.

He blew himself up in October 2008, in the northern breakaway republic of Somaliland as part of a series of coordinated explosions that killed 21 people.

Beledi is also now among the dead. Authorities believe he left Minnesota in October 2009 and drove cross-country to the U.S.-Mexico border, then went to Somalia.

Authorities say he was one of two suicide bombers in the May 30 attack at a government checkpoint in Mogadishu that killed two African Union troops and one government soldier. Somalia officials said the attack began with a firefight, in which one suicide bomber was shot before his explosive detonated. □

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Leaders of the Americas meet in Aruba to call for concerted action

## 1st Pan American Conference takes on Childhood Obesity



**ORANJESTAD** – His Excellency Prime Minister of Aruba Mike Eman welcomed leaders of the Americas, scientists, health experts and politicians to Aruba for the 1st Pan American Conference on Obesity, with special attention to Childhood Obesity on Aruba, June 8-11, 2011. The Director of PAHO-WHO Mirta Roses gave her opening video message by announcing the alarming rising statistics regarding Childhood Obesity in the region of the Americas to the representatives of 23 participating countries.

On the invitation of the Minister of Health of Aruba Hon. Richard Visser, participants and speakers have the oppor-

tunity to discuss the current situation in the countries of the Americas region regarding the global obesity epidemic and to propose a concerted action plan to confront this problem. The group expects that this initiative will also be an important contribution from the region with a Declaration for Concerted Action to be delivered to the Global Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases of the General Assembly of Heads of State and Government, to be held in New York in September 2011.

Obesity is present in all countries in the Americas with a tendency to increase in the majority of people groups within those countries, though



its presentation and progress depend on specific circumstances.

This problem's performance has to do with an increasing sedentary lifestyle and consumption of food with high content of refined sugars and fats, along with less consumption of fruits, vegetables and other foods accepted as healthy.

Obesity is one of the main obstacles to social and economic development in the Americas.



Its implications at present and in the future are such that coping with and solving it must no longer be delayed. In the past thirty years, the prevalence of obesity has risen in the region.

WHO estimates that from 2002 to 2010, every country in the Pan American region experienced an increase in obesity rates. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



Aruba's 12 and under team

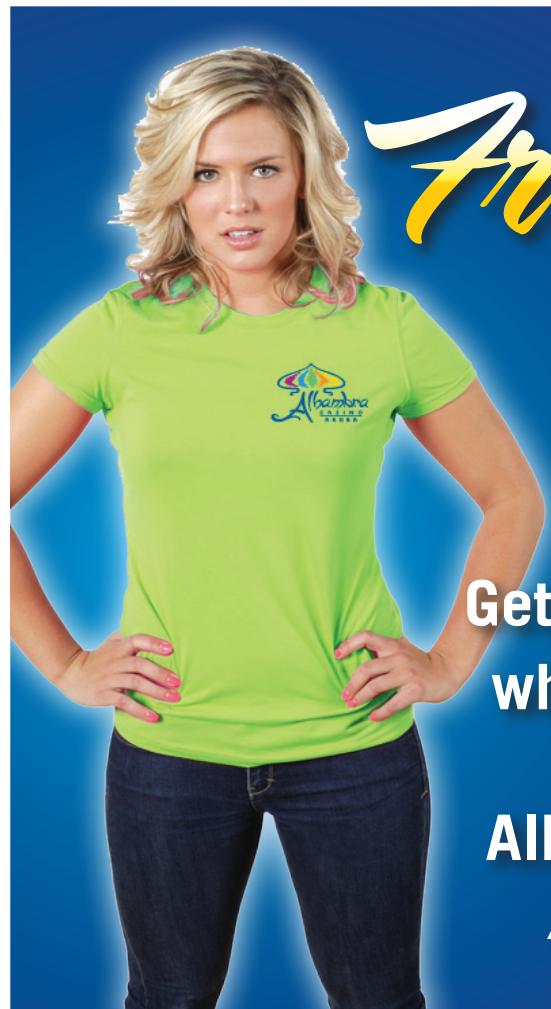
# Barracudas Synchronized Swim team head to Canada



ORANJESTAD — The Barracudas Synchronized Swim team left for Canada on Wednesday morning to compete in the Trilliums in Ontario, Canada on June 11 & 12. The event will be hosted by the Waterloo Synchro Club and the team of: Giulia Brezovar, Chelsey Mejia Torres, Marjolein Rutgers, Abigail de Veer, Amanda Morales, Erica Jaramillo, Elisabeth Timmer,

and Talisah Beke will compete. There will be two duets performed by Giulia Brezovar & Chelsey Mejia Torres, and Abigail de Veer & Marjolein Rutgers. Both Giulia and Chelsey will also compete in the Solo competition. Good luck to Aruba's young athletes.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro. □



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"Nos Cunucu"

# The Land Farm supplies Aruba with freshness



**ORANJESTAD** -Aruba now has a produce farm called "Nos Cunucu - The Land Farm". This is an incredible feat and certainly one of its kind on Aruba.

Owner Ari Lichtenstien had a dream to grow his own fruits and vegetables and although it took him a year to develop, he has finally launched his "fresh" farm to Aruba.

"The Land Farm" has already started supplying many of Aruba's most popular supermarkets with fresh fruits and vegetables grown right here on Aruba. The farm hosts a wide variety of melons, berries, tomatoes, cucumbers, apples, soon-to-be-avocados

and many local fruits that are only grown here on Aruba. One very special berry fruit from the strawberry tree honestly tastes like a mouth full of cotton candy. The giant green houses provide the perfect environment to grow the fruits and vegetables.

Bumble bees that live in the green houses help pollinate the plant life to thrive.

"Nos Cunucu - The Land Farm" has already made significant donations to the community with the absolute freshest donations to the community in the capacity of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital – Meals on Wheels and also to the elderly at Paviloen,

Maristella and SABA  
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and with a more than fresh new low price. Restaurants and supermarkets are more than welcome to order directly. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



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# Michael and Robin Pusateri honored at Westin

PALM BEACH - Robin and Michael Pusateri were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors after returning to Aruba for 20 consecutive years.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between ten (10) and nineteen (19) consecutive years.

The recent honoring took place at the Westin and was presented by Ms. Marouska Heyliger, Aruba Tourism Authority Representative.

Pictured: Michael and Robin Pusateri and Family, also with Mr. Richard Roy, Mr. Patrick Donovan, Mr. Al Amen-gual, Ms. Somaly Felten and Mr. Frank Bermudez from Westin. □



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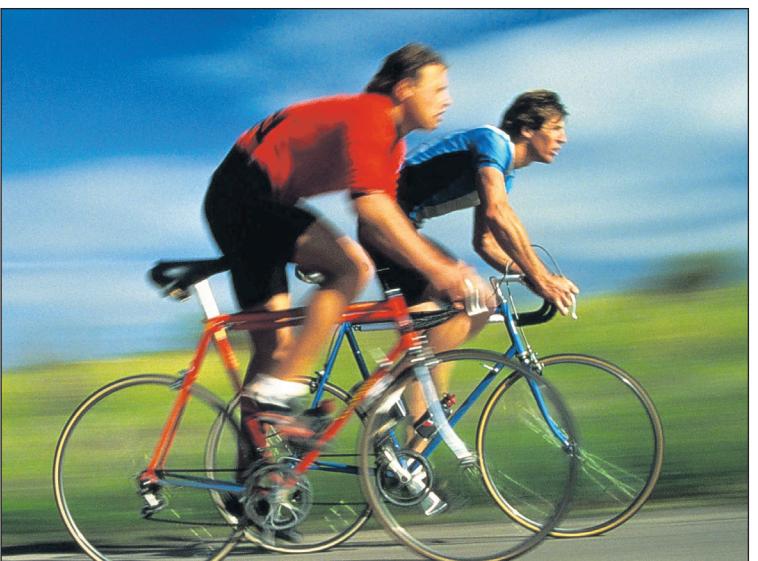


## De Suikertuin, Tri-bike and the Dutch marines join hands

ORANJESTAD - In a fund-raising bike tour for Aruba's needy animals Restaurant De Suikertuin, Tribike and the Dutch marines are joining forces on June 26, 2011, when a fund-raising bike trip will take place. Benefiting charity is the Animal Rights Aruba (ARA), which is targeting abused, maltreated and malnourished animals on the island.

With Willeke of De Suikertuin, Annemarie of Tri-bike and Geert of the Dutch marines behind the bike ride, it surely is going to be a lot of fun. Proceeds of the tour will go entirely to the ARA. The cost of participation will be AWG. 25,- per person.

Anyone interested in joining



should register at De Suikertuin in the Wilhelminastraat, get a bike or rent one at Tri-bike and be at the Marinierskazerne in Savaneta at 7.30 am for an early, cool 8 am start. The ride will take participants along the north shore and an early lunch is eaten at the Fontein caves halfway. See you at the Marinierskazerne on June 26! □

# NATO strikes hit Tripoli as \$1 billion pledged to rebels

DIAA HADID,  
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — NATO airstrikes rattled the Libyan capital Thursday with clusters of bombing runs believed to have targeted the outskirts of Tripoli.

At first, the intensity of the attacks suggested a return to the heavy NATO bombardment that hit military installations across the capital on Tuesday and flattened major buildings in leader Moammar Gadhafi's sprawling compound in the center of the city.

By nightfall Thursday, a total of 14 air attacks had been carried out, considerably fewer than Tuesday. There were eight explosions in a first series of strikes on Thursday and hours later, the sound of six more airstrikes boomed in the distance.

The bombing continued early Friday as three fresh strikes sent plumes of smoke over Tripoli. Their direction suggested that either Gadhafi's compound or nearby military barracks were shelled. Government officials have not been commenting on NATO strikes.

After the strikes, pro-Gadhafi supporters fired assault rifles into the air and beeped their car horns in defiance.

The strikes are in support of a four-month-old rebel uprising that seeks to push Gadhafi from power after four decades. Rebels have taken control of swaths of eastern



Libyan rebel fighters stand at their position at the southern front line of the city of Misrata, Libya Thursday, June 9, 2011. On Wednesday pro-Gadhafi forces renewed their shelling near the western city of Misrata, killing 10 rebel fighters and on Thursday NATO airstrikes rattled the Libyan capital with clusters of bombing runs believed to have targeted the outskirts of Tripoli.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

Libya, although fighting has since become a stalemate even with NATO support.

Gadhafi shows no signs of ceding power under the building pressure of the NATO strikes, despite repeated attacks on his compound, government buildings, military radar emplacements and other army installations.

But the chief of the U.S. CIA, Leon Panetta, said in testimony before the Senate Thursday the NATO military operation, strong economic sanctions, and enforcement of the no-fly zone are putting tremendous pressure on Gadhafi. U.S. President Barack Obama has named Panetta to take over as Defense Secretary this summer.

Among other signs of building pressure, U.S. Secretary

of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday that there are "numerous and continu-

ing" overtures by people close to Gadhafi to negotiate his departure from power.

Speaking to reporters after an international conference on Libya in the United Arab Emirates, Clinton said proposals from "people close to Gadhafi" presented to unspecified countries included the "potential for a transition." But she said she could not predict if they would be accepted.

Fighting on the ground between Libyan government forces and the rebels had largely died down after the NATO strikes began. The Western alliance took to the skies over Libya under a U.N. resolution that allowed NATO flights to protect civilians. What began as a no-fly zone quickly evolved into strong at-

tacks on the regime.

On Wednesday, however, Gadhafi forces renewed their shelling near the western city of Misrata, killing 10 rebel fighters. Misrata is one of the few footholds rebels have in western Libya. NATO reported it had destroyed a "electronic warfare vehicle" and military training camp in the vicinity of the city as government forces had renewed their assault on the port city.

In Brussels on Thursday, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the shelling near Misrata underscored the continued need to protect civilians.

"It is an example that the Gadhafi regime still constitutes a threat to the civilian population," he said. □

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# AP sources: Yemeni militants bombed by U.S. planes

KIMBERLY DOZIER

PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. officials say American forces launched an airstrike against al-Qaida targets in southern Yemen last week to keep al-Qaida's Yemeni offshoot from taking advantage of the unrest there.

The officials said Thursday the strike by U.S. war planes last Friday killed a midlevel al-Qaida operative named Abu Ali al-Harithi, and other followers.

It followed a May 5 drone strike that just missed US-born al-Qaida cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, due to a technical malfunction, two U.S. officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the classified operations.

Officials said neither strike was part of any change in policy or intentional increase in counterterror operations, but they were launched because of intelligence leading to the targets.

"These operations have not been stepped up," one official said. "They are depen-

dent on the availability of the right information at the right time."

While not confirming the strike, CIA Director Leon Panetta said his agency and elite U.S. special operators

despite the continuing revolt aimed at ousting the wounded President Ali Abdullah Saleh. U.S. officials said al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula was trying to exploit the situation to carry out further

recent terror attacks aimed at the U.S., including last year's plot to put explosive devices on U.S.-bound cargo planes, and the attempt to bring down an airliner headed for Detroit, Michigan, in

tion, with regards to counterterrorism, we're still very much continuing our operations," Panetta said at his Senate confirmation hearing Thursday to become the next defense secretary.

Panetta added that his officers were working together with the military's elite and ultrasecret counterterrorism unit, the Joint Special Operations Command, in Yemen and in other areas where al-Qaida is active.

JSOC is officially described as a training organization, with its terror-fighting role classified. Its operators, including Navy SEALs and Army Green Berets, have been working with Yemeni military and counterterror forces for years, fostering their ability to fight homegrown militants, U.S. officials say.

"We're working with JSOC in their operations," Panetta said. "Same thing is true for Somalia."

A JSOC helicopter raid in 2009 killed al-Qaida militant Saleh Ali Nabhan in Somalia, who was thought to have helped plan the 1998 attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Elite special operations teams also have carried out direct attacks on al-Qaida forces inside Yemen, including a December 2009 strike in which missiles were fired from a Navy ship, coordinated with a small team of U.S. troops on the ground.

Navy SEALs, under JSOC's command, carried out the May raid that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

In that operation, the SEALs technically were under the CIA's control by orders of the president. □



Yemeni women march as they demand the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Taiz, Yemen, Thursday, June 9, 2011. Government troops trying to recapture areas held by Islamic militants have killed 12 suspected al-Qaida members in the troubled southern province of Abyan, the Defense Ministry said Thursday.

(AP Photo/Anees Mahyoub)

were continuing to work with the Yemeni government to keep the militants at bay,

attacks.

The group has been behind some of the most creative

2009.

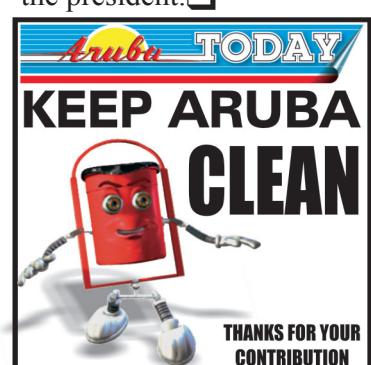
"While obviously it's ... a scary and uncertain situ-

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11:00 AM	100,000 ⚡	FIRE BURN BABYLON ⚡				
11:00 AM	MR. HAPPY MAN   RISE UP ⚡	MR. HAPPY MAN   LA FUGA ⚡				
12:45 PM	AMUHE FRIDA   FIRE BURN BABYLON ⚡					
1:00 PM	VOICES OF MARIEL ⚡	VOICES OF MARIEL ⚡				
1:30 PM	CURACAO ⚡	10 AVE MARIA   CHILDREN OF GOD ⚡				
2:45 PM	10 AVE MARIA   CHILDREN OF GOD ⚡					
3:00 PM	CIAO! ⚡	MUHE FRIDA   CURACAO ⚡	ENSEMBLE ⚡			
3:30 PM		100,000 ⚡				FILM LAB FILMS ⚡
4:00 PM					MOTHERS ⚡	THE MILL AND THE CROSS ⚡
4:30 PM	THE AGRONOMIST ⚡		THE INVOCATION ⚡			
5:00 PM	HERMANOS ⚡	THE BIG BANG ⚡	BEGINNERS ⚡	LA RAFLE ⚡	EVEN THE RAIN ⚡	BEGINNERS ⚡
5:00 PM	TATANKA ⚡	NESSUNO MI PUO GUIDICARE ⚡	COFFE PROJECT ⚡	MADE IN HUNGARIA ⚡	MEET MONICA VELOUR ⚡	TEQUILA ⚡
6:00 PM	IN CONVERSATION WITH JONATHAN DEMME ⚡	IN CONVERSATION WITH KIM CATTRALL ⚡	IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL KAPLAN ⚡	IN CONVERSATION WITH SERGIO SANCHEZ ⚡	IN CONVERSATION WITH MILCHO MANCHEVSKI ⚡	IN CONVERSATION WITH LECH MAJEWSKY ⚡
7:30 PM	OPENING NIGHT ⚡ MEET MONICA VELOUR WITH KIM CATTRALL ⚡	NESSUNO MI PUO GUIDICARE WITH PAOLA CORTELEZI ⚡ CIAO! WITH ALESSANDRO CALZA ⚡	HABANA EVA ⚡ WITH PRAKRITI MADURO ⚡	TEQUILA ⚡ WITH DANIELA SCHMIDT & SERGIO SUAREZ ⚡	THINGS FALL APART ⚡ WITH CURTIS "50 CENT" JACKSON ⚡	KITES ⚡ WITH BARBARA MORI ⚡
8:00 PM	BIBLIOTEQUE PASCAL ⚡	BEGINNERS ⚡	SON OF NO ONE ⚡		THE MILL AND THE CROSS ⚡	CLOSING NIGHT ⚡ THE GUARD WITH VARIOUS TALENTS ⚡
8:00 PM		CIAO! ⚡	LA RAFLE ⚡		TATANKA ⚡	
9:30 PM	OPENING GALA PARTY ⚡ BMW ⚡		ZISSLERS HOLLYWOOD PARTY ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	10:30 PM THINGS FALL APART ⚡ PARTY ⚡	ZISSLERS BOLLYWOOD PARTY ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	CLOSING NIGHT ⚡ PARTY ⚡
10:00 PM	HERMANOS ⚡	BEFORE THE RAIN ⚡	EVEN THE RAIN ⚡	HABANA EVA ⚡	SON OF NO ONE ⚡	THE BIG BANG ⚡
10:00 PM	THE LIFE OF FISH ⚡	CIAO! ⚡	THE LIFE OF FISH ⚡	BEFORE THE RAIN ⚡	MOTHERS ⚡	THE GUARD ⚡
10:00 PM	MEET MONICA VELOUR ⚡	MADE IN HUNGARIA ⚡	COFFEE PROJECT ⚡	WINNER SPOTLIGHT SERIES ⚡	BIBLIOTEQUE PASCAL ⚡	THINGS FALL APART ⚡
12:00 AM	After Party ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	After Party ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	After Party ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	After Party ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	KITES ⚡	SON OF NO ONE ⚡
					After Party ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡	After Party ⚡ South Beach Day ⚡

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O·P·I

## Hope for change in Bahrain

MARK LANDLER

© 2011 New York Times

WASHINGTON/BAHRAIN

As the Arab Spring grinds into summer, President Barack Obama has turned on repressive Arab governments in different ways and at different speeds. He broke quickly with Moammar Gadhafi of Libya and more reluctantly with Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. He slapped sanctions on Bashar Assad of Syria and has encouraged a Saudi-led effort to ease Ali Abdullah Saleh out of Yemen.

Only in the case of Bahrain has Obama kept out the welcome mat — prodding, cajoling and exhorting members of its royal family to ease a crackdown that crushed peaceful protesters demanding democratic change. In particular, the administration has cultivated Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the 41-year-old heir to the throne who graduated from American University in Washington and speaks English like someone from the mid-Atlantic region.

On Thursday, Prince Salman met Vice President Joe Biden, completing a high-level tour that included a White House meeting Tuesday with Obama and his national security adviser, Thomas E. Donilon. He also paid a call on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who said the United States supported “the kinds of important work that the crown prince has been doing in his nation.”

The prince, who is considered the most moderate member of his family, has been assigned to lead whatever dialogue there is with the opposition. But this is the same Sunni monarchy that imposed martial law to silence the demands of the mostly Shiite opposition. □

## More Syrians flee into Turkey for fear of assaults



Turkish soldiers stand as a group of Syrians wait inside Syria for authorization to enter Turkey near the Turkish village of Guvecci in Hatay province, Thursday, June 9, 2011. Turkey said Wednesday it would open the border to Syrians fleeing violence.

(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

SEBNEM ARSU

LIAM STACK

© 2011 New York Times

KARBEYAZ, Turkey — Security forces loyal to President Bashar Assad of Syria converged in the country's restive northwest Thursday as hundreds of residents fled across the border into Turkey, heightening fears of a budding refugee crisis and a widening crackdown on dissent.

**The security forces massed around the town of Jisr al-Shoughour after clashes last weekend made the area the new focus of the pro-democracy demonstrations that have swept across Syria since March. The protests present the gravest threat yet to four decades of rule by the Assad family.**

The unrest in Jisr al-Shoughour has taken on criti-

cal importance for both the Syrian government and its opponents: Reports say that soldiers there have defected to the opposition, refused to fire on civilian demonstrators and turned their guns on loyalist army units. While the Syrian government blamed armed gangs and terrorists for the violence, it appears determined to punish the town and enforce discipline in the ranks of the armed forces that ensure its rule.

Tanks and armored personnel carriers moved to the edge of the town Thursday night, and soldiers appeared to be pitching tents, said one resident reached by telephone. Many women and children had fled, but those residents who remained, another said, were being stopped at checkpoints ringing the town.

A few thousand men were holed up, awaiting what appeared to be an imminent assault.

“They are going to raid the city, but we don't know when,” said Ahmad, a 28-year-old resident reached by phone who estimated that 100 tanks were among the forces camped at the city's doorstep.

“Most of us are not armed. We will be completely exterminated.”

The violence in Jisr al-Shoughour has driven more than 1,000 people across the border, raising the pressure on Syria's embattled government as Turkey, an important economic partner, is forced to confront a flow of refugees that could grow in the coming days.

The Turkish government authorized the construction of two refugee camps Thursday, according to Turkey's semiofficial Anatolian News Agency. The new camps can accommodate more than 5,000 refugees. □

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## Somalia extends government, but prime minister is fired

JEFFREY GETTLEMAN

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**JOHANNESBURG** — After months of feuding, Somalia's bickering leaders on Thursday agreed on a compromise that extends the transitional government for one more year but, at the same time, led to the dismissal of the popular prime minister. Hundreds of civilians — and government troops — immediately indicated their displeasure over the firing by setting huge bonfires and erecting roadblocks in the streets of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. Soldiers abandoned dozens of positions across the city, and civilians marched en masse through the bullet-pocked neighborhoods, waving pictures of Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. Many soldiers called him the only honest person in the government and said that under him they had been paid for the first time.

"We have enemies, whom we have been fighting against every day at the front lines, but now we have got another enemy behind us, which is very disappointing," said Omar Hassan Mohamed, a government soldier, alluding to the rivalries within the Somali government.

The political squabbling started several months ago, when Sharif Hassan Sheik Aden, the



**Somalis shout at an armed Somali government soldier during a demonstration in Mogadishu, Somalia, Thursday, June 9, 2011.** A deal has been reached between President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed and Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheik Aden, which calls for Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to resign within 30 days. Somalia's squabbling leaders have agreed to postpone their country's upcoming presidential vote by one year to help the government deal with security and political issues.

(Mohamed Sheikh Nor)

speaker of Somalia's Parliament, threatened to call elections in August. The mandate for Somalia's transitional government, which is weak and survives solely on international support, was scheduled to end in August but Somalia's president, Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed, has refused to step down. Western powers seemed unsure what to do, because although Sheik Sharif has a reputation for being indecisive and ineffective, the United States and other Western countries have invested millions of dollars in propping up

his government as a bulwark against Islamist insurgents who control much of Somalia. Susan Rice, the United States' ambassador to the United Nations, recently threatened to cut off aid to the Somali government if the leaders could not solve this impasse.

On Thursday in Kampala, Uganda, the impasse was broken when Sheik Sharif and Sharif Hassan agreed, in front of Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, to work together for one more year and to hold elections before August 2012. □

## Georgia threatens to quit Geneva talks with Russia

ELLEN BARRY

© 2011 New York Times

News Service

**MOSCOW** — Georgia said Thursday that it might withdraw from regular talks with Russia after uncovering what it said were Russian plots to plant bombs in Georgian territory.

The talks, which are held in Geneva, have been the two countries' main line of communication since their war in 2008.

Twice in the last week, the Georgian authorities arrested people who said they had been hired by Russian military officers to plant bombs inside Georgia. Giga Bokeria, the leader of the Georgian delegation in Geneva, said Tbilisi would end the negotiations if there were any more incidents.

"It's as serious as it can be," Bokeria said after he returned Thursday from the 16th round of talks. "We consider it to be an important venue despite the lack of substantial progress. Despite that, we always thought we would still be going to Geneva, because it's better to have a place where you talk rather than not to have it."

Russia has cast doubt on the allegations, but promised to review evidence about the planned bombings that was provided by Bokeria.

Georgia is also engaged in negotiations with Russia over a proposal that Moscow join the World Trade Organization, which Georgia, as a member, has the power to block.

Bokeria said Georgia was willing to support Russia's

membership in the WTO if Moscow "finds a compromise on border transparency," like placing independent observers at the border between Russia and the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. But, he said, any further incidents could jeopardize that, too.

"If the campaign worsens, it affects everything," he said. "If Russia continues to be a state sponsoring terror attacks, that changes everything."

The reports of the planned bombings hinge on confessions by people detained by the Georgian police before they detonated any explosives. The Georgians said a man and a woman confessed last Thursday that Russian officers in Abkhazia had hired them to bomb a marketplace. □

## World Briefs

### Ex-Guatemala cop arrested in civil-war case

**GUATEMALA CITY** (AP) — Authorities in Guatemala say they have arrested a former national police chief for his alleged involvement in the civil war-era disappearance of a union activist in 1984. The 70-year-old Hector Bol de la Cruz was detained Thursday in El Progreso, a town about 85 miles (140 kilometers) east of the capital. He says he is innocent. The former police chief is the fourth person detained in the case of missing activist Edgar Fernando Garcia. A judge sentenced two police officers to 40 years in prison last October. Another police officer has also been arrested. Garcia was the 25-year-old husband of a congresswoman when he disappeared on Feb. 18, 1984. Bol de la Cruz was national police chief from 1983 to 1985. □

### Hospital staff strikes amid cholera outbreak

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic** (AP) — Doctors and nurses at one of the few hospitals in the Dominican Republic with the capacity to treat cholera patients went on strike Thursday after a nurse became infected with the bacteria. Workers are demanding better sanitary conditions at Francisco Moscoso Puello Hospital, which often lacks water, medication and a system to safely dispose of waste, said Felipe de la Rosa, general secretary for a medical workers union. Nurse Ramona Rivera is suspected of having contracted cholera this week while handling the waste of other cholera patients at the hospital in the capital, Santo Domingo. During the strike, medical personnel are attending only to emergency cases and patients with cholera. They are not performing surgeries, taking appointments or hospitalizing anyone without an emergency. □

### Venezuela authorizes \$22.5B in new debt

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP) — President Hugo Chavez won approval from legislators Thursday to increase the amount of new debt Venezuela's government can take on this year to more than \$22.5 billion. In December, lawmakers had authorized the equivalent of \$12 billion in new debt this year. But Chavez last week requested that the limit be raised about 86 percent. Opposition lawmakers criticized the change, expressing concerns about the government's growing debt. They said the boost was unjustified at a time when the OPEC member is enjoying higher prices for its oil. The law passed with the support of 97 pro-Chavez lawmakers, while 68 opposition lawmakers voted against it. Pro-Chavez lawmaker Ricardo Sanguino said the additional funds will be used, among other things, to build more public housing and expand the government's agriculture programs. Chavez, who is up for re-election in 2012, has pledged to boost construction of public housing this year. □

### Russian forest fires could be even worse this year

**MOSCOW** (AP) — A devastating wave of wildfires across Russia could ravage millions of acres of forests and cause worse damage than last year's catastrophic blazes, environmentalists and officials said Thursday. "We're burning, burning badly," Greenpeace's forestry expert, Alexey Yaroshenko, said. "This year's situation is already much worse than last year's." In 2010, an unprecedented heat wave triggered fires that killed 55 people, destroyed thousands of houses and torched 2.6 million hectares (6.4 million acres) of forests — an area slightly larger than Oregon. Greenpeace claimed the Russian government is silencing information about fires, especially about the renewal of peat-bog fires around Moscow that last year cloaked the capital with acrid, toxic smoke. □

# Cirque's 'Zarkana': How do you make a whole show fly?

JASON ZINOMAN

© 2011 New York Times

**MONTREAL** — Two years ago Guy Laliberte, the billionaire owner of Cirque du Soleil, was in Russia training to become a space tourist when he received a call from his millionaire friend Bono. Fellow titans of popular culture, they text each other and have hung out on the beach in St. Barts. This time, however, Bono wanted to talk business.

According to Laliberte, Bono was seeking new investors for his long-gestating musical, "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark," and Laliberte said he would consider it. He recalled this moment in his Montreal office in mid-March, right after hearing that the director Julie Taymor was being pushed out of the production. What happened, he said, was the result of simple math.

"I saw the figures — they're crazy," he said, explaining that not enough money would end up onstage. Laliberte said he turned down his friend's proposal. (Bono's representatives declined to comment.)

Maybe the only producer in the world who has regularly mounted live shows of a similar financial scale to "Spider-Man," Laliberte knows the handful of high-profile injuries sustained in "Spider-Man" are an inevitable result of shooting live performers into the air. And he understands how frustrating it can be to hear critics demand dramatic changes to a show so complex that even tweaks require hours of rehearsal. Yet he doesn't seem to sympathize. He sees an opportunity.

As it happens, "Zarkana," Laliberte's own high-flying blend of circus and rock opera just began previews for a four-month run at Radio City Music Hall, the first time Cirque du Soleil, the Montreal-based entertainment behemoth, will have a regular presence on the edge of the New York theater district. Like "Spider-Man," which opens Tuesday, "Zarkana" features a character soaring over the audience, a hard-driving rock score, a villainous spider lady and gravity-defying acrobats.

Laliberte didn't just reject his friend's offer; it appears he decided to show him how it's really done. Challenging "Spider-Man" head-on was more an accident of schedule than intentional, given the Broadway

ing the miracle of flight look rather mechanical.

"Zarkana," which has the advantage of world-class athletes and acrobats, put much of its \$50 million budget into massive automated set pieces that support the aerial acts, in-

Bernard Petiot, vice president for casting and performance. "We needed to avoid holes and lots of wires because you can't alter the theater. We did it with bolts and screws."

If "Zarkana" tries to soar in a different way from "Spider-



An undated handout photo of Zark, played by Garou, a Quebec pop star, in the Cirque du Soleil production of "Zarkana". Shaping Cirque du Soleil's new show, "Zarkana," involves trying to balance the tension between a circus and a rock opera.

(OSA Images/Cirque du Soleil)

show's delayed opening, but Cirque is not shying away from comparisons. "At first we thought of acknowledging it and have Spider-Man show up on the stage as if he was on the wrong call," says Francois Girard, the director of "Zarkana," who comes to Cirque from the opera and film worlds.

He saw an early preview of the musical.

"I thought: 'Where are the webs? It should be all about the webs.' So look — we got webs." At the heart of both shows are these challenges: How do you make a performer fly? Or at least, simulate it in a historic theater built long before the bungee cord was invented? And how do you satisfy an audience's wish for both familiarity and novelty? Cirque tried to stretch last year, with the vaudeville-theme "Banana Shpeel," only to suffer its first big flop. "Spider-Man," with a budget of \$70 million, attached wires to its actors and dancers, mak-

ing the miracle of flight look rather mechanical.

"Zarkana," which has the advantage of world-class athletes and acrobats, put much of its \$50 million budget into massive automated set pieces that support the aerial acts, in-

cluding an 8,000-pound high-wire apparatus that emerges majestically from below the stage and unfolds into two



Performers rehearse acts at Radio City Music Hall before the opening of "Zarkana" in New York, 2011.

(Julieta

Cervantes/The New York Times)

solid pillars, with a wire connecting them, supporting eight tons of force. This mighty scene change takes 80 seconds and requires not a single stagehand. "The innovation for this show is the equipment," said

high-tech scale.

It's no accident that almost everyone within Cirque (including Laliberte) refers to their enterprise as the Machine.

After following the creative process of "Zarkana" over

several months through three cities, it's clear that this Machine is slow, resistant to change and can often seem like a collection of parts more than an integrated whole. In an effort to rebound from the rare failure of the intimate "Banana Shpeel" in New York last year, the one thing everyone agrees on is that this will be a very big show. There will be daredevil feats, bold images and high-flying acrobatic spectacle. As Girard put it: "No theater. No vaudeville. We want to be more Cirque than Cirque."

Rene Bazinet, a director of clown creation on "Zarkana," is walking around a warehouse in Montreal in March discussing looming disaster. It is right before a checkpoint, which in the parlance of Cirque means a rehearsal attended by the artistic brass, including Laliberte. Bazinet's job is to help guide 15 performers of diverse backgrounds into a comic unit called the Movers.

Less than a week earlier he had spoken to his friend David Shiner, the director of "Banana Shpeel," who told him what he already knew: that clowning at a theater the size of Radio City is impossible. "The clowns are going to die," Shiner says. "You need an intimate space for clowning, otherwise you have nothing."

Bazinet, a wiry German with a black leather jacket and a mop of curly hair, speaks in bursts of melancholy and poetic flourishes. "We want to laugh, and right now we're not," he says, speculating that he might lose his job. "I am getting old. We are running away from the beauty."

At Cirque du Soleil no one is more depressed than the clowns. That's not just because the painted smiles hide a deep-seated sadness, although there is some truth to that stereotype. ("You can't imagine the number of clowns I've seen cry in my life," Laliberte says.) Rather, it is because developing a clown act requires more experimentation and spontaneity that the Machine allows time for. □

# Release my friend!



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2011 New York Times

Dear King Hamad of Bahrain, Among those whom you're imprisoning in Bahrain is a friend of mine. He is an artist, one of the most gentle souls alive, and my deepest fear is that your government may be brutalizing him because of his friendship with me.

Your Majesty, I'm speaking of Hassan al-Sahaf. Now 57, he studied in Britain and then in Los Angeles, Boston and in Oregon, where my mother taught art history — and Hassan became one of my mother's all-time favorite students. That was 30 years ago, but we have remained in touch ever since.

King Hamad, you present the crackdown on the democracy movement as an effort to restore order. But Hassan is not some teenage firebrand hurling rocks; he's a slight, graying scholar committed to peace. That's the pattern: So many of the people in your jails are doctors and intellectuals whose only offense is to dream of democracy.

Hassan told me that his time in America changed him: Once you get used to living in freedom, he explained, it's hard to give it up. One of your burdens, Your Majesty, is that you educated so many of your people abroad that they no longer accept your despotism. Yes, it's true that Hassan has a Shiite background — like most of Bahrain's people. You and the rest of the royal family are Sunnis, and you're scared to death of Shiite extremism and an Iranian-backed Shiite insurgency. You watched how Shiites took power in Iraq and in some cases unleashed

death squads, and you're understandably fearful that democracy would lead to the unraveling of Bahrain and violence against your loved ones. Your brutality arises not from viciousness, I think, but from fear.

But Hassan doesn't have a chauvinist bone in his body. When he lived in the United States, he married a Jewish woman, although that marriage later fell apart. He has spoken to me warmly of Sunnis.

After his return to Bahrain from America, Hassan taught at Bahrain University. During clashes there, he told me, he protected students who were members of your royal family. Yet somewhere along the line, your security forces became irritated with him. Hassan has a tremendous sense of dignity and refused to kowtow, so your government eventually sent him to prison and tortured him, he said. Twice. This is exactly the Kafkaesque world that the pro-democracy protesters were trying to abolish.

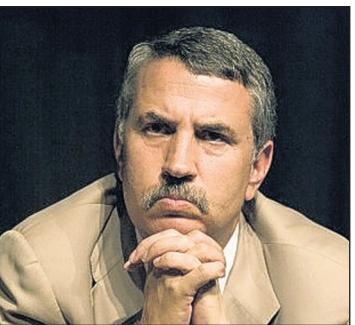
In February, during my last visit to Bahrain, your troops opened fire without warning on pro-democracy protesters as they chanted "peaceful, peaceful." Since then, we've seen a violent crackdown that has killed more people and filled the prisons.

I just found out that your security forces attacked Hassan's house and arrested him again.

Your government tells me, with a straight face, that he has been sentenced to a month in prison for failing to pay a debt. We all know that the real reason is the campaign of terror that you have unleashed on Shiites: throwing them into prison, firing them from their jobs, destroying their mosques, dragging them out of hospital beds, cutting off their scholarships. You want them to know that they will pay an excruciating price if they ever dare push for democracy again. And those like Hassan who are linked to foreign journalists are targeted, to intimidate them into silence. □



# Advice for China



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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Dear President Hu: You asked for our assessment of the Arab Spring. Our conclusion is that the revolutions in the Arab world contain some important lessons for the rule of the Chinese Communist Party, because what this contagion reveals is something very new about of how revolutions unfold in the 21st century and something very old about why they explode.

Let's start with the new. Sometime around the year 2000, the world achieved a very high level of connectivity, virtually flattening the global economic playing field. This web of connectivity was built on the diffusion of personal computers, fiber-optic cable, the Internet and Web servers. What this platform did was to make Boston and Beijing or Detroit and Damascus next-door neighbors. It brought some 2 billion people into a global conversation.

Well, sir, while we were focused on the U.S. recession, we went from a connected

world to a "hyperconnected world." It has connected Boston, Beijing and now Baotou in inner Mongolia. This deeper penetration of connectivity is built on smarter cellphones, wireless bandwidth and social networks. This new platform for connectivity, being so cheap and mobile, is bringing another 2 billion people into the conversation from more and more remote areas.

To put it in Middle Eastern terms, sir, this new platform has connected Detroit and Damascus and Daraa. Where is Daraa, you ask? Daraa is the small Syrian border town where the uprising in Syria began and whose residents have been pumping out video, Twitter feeds and Facebook postings of regime atrocities ever since. The point, sir, is the world is now hyperconnected, and there is no such thing as "local" anymore. Everything now flows instantly from the most remote corners of any country onto this global platform where it gets shared. What the laptop plus the Internet plus the search engine did for Web pages was enable anyone with connectivity to find anything@ that interests them and what the cellphone plus the Internet plus Facebook are doing is enabling anyone to find ^anyone who interests them — and then coordinate with them and share grievances and aspirations. □

The days when Arab dictators could take over the state-run TV and radio and shut off all information to their people are over. The Syrians can't shut off their cellphone networks now any more than they can shut off their electricity grids. Sir, think about this: Syria has banned all foreign networks, like CNN and the BBC, but if you go to YouTube and type in "Daraa" you will see the most vivid up-to-date video of the Syrian regime's crackdown — all shot with cellphones or flip-cams by Syrians and then uploaded to YouTube or to newly created websites like Sham News Network. Nothing stays hidden anymore. The second trend we see in the Arab Spring is a manifestation of "Carlson's Law," posited by Curtis Carlson, the CEO of SRI International, in Silicon Valley, which states that: "In a world where so many people now have access to education and cheap tools of innovation, innovation that happens from the bottom up tends to be chaotic but smart. Innovation that happens from the top down tends to be orderly but dumb." As a result, says Carlson, the sweet spot for innovation today is "moving down," closer to the people, not up, because all the people together are smarter than anyone alone and all the people now have the tools to invent and collaborate. □

# Red Sox extended their dominance of Yankees this season

Boston Red Sox's Tim Wakefield delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press  
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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, June 10, 2011

### Yankees RHP Chamberlain has torn elbow ligament



New York Yankees relief pitcher Joba Chamberlain reacts after the final out of the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Sunday, June 5, 2011, in Anaheim, Calif.

By BEN WALKER  
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Yankees reliever Joba Chamberlain has a torn ligament in his right elbow, a startling injury that's likely to require Tommy John surgery and end his season. A test Thursday morning revealed the tear.

It came a day after New York put Chamberlain on the 15-day disabled list with a stiff elbow, the latest setback for the back of the Yankees' bullpen.

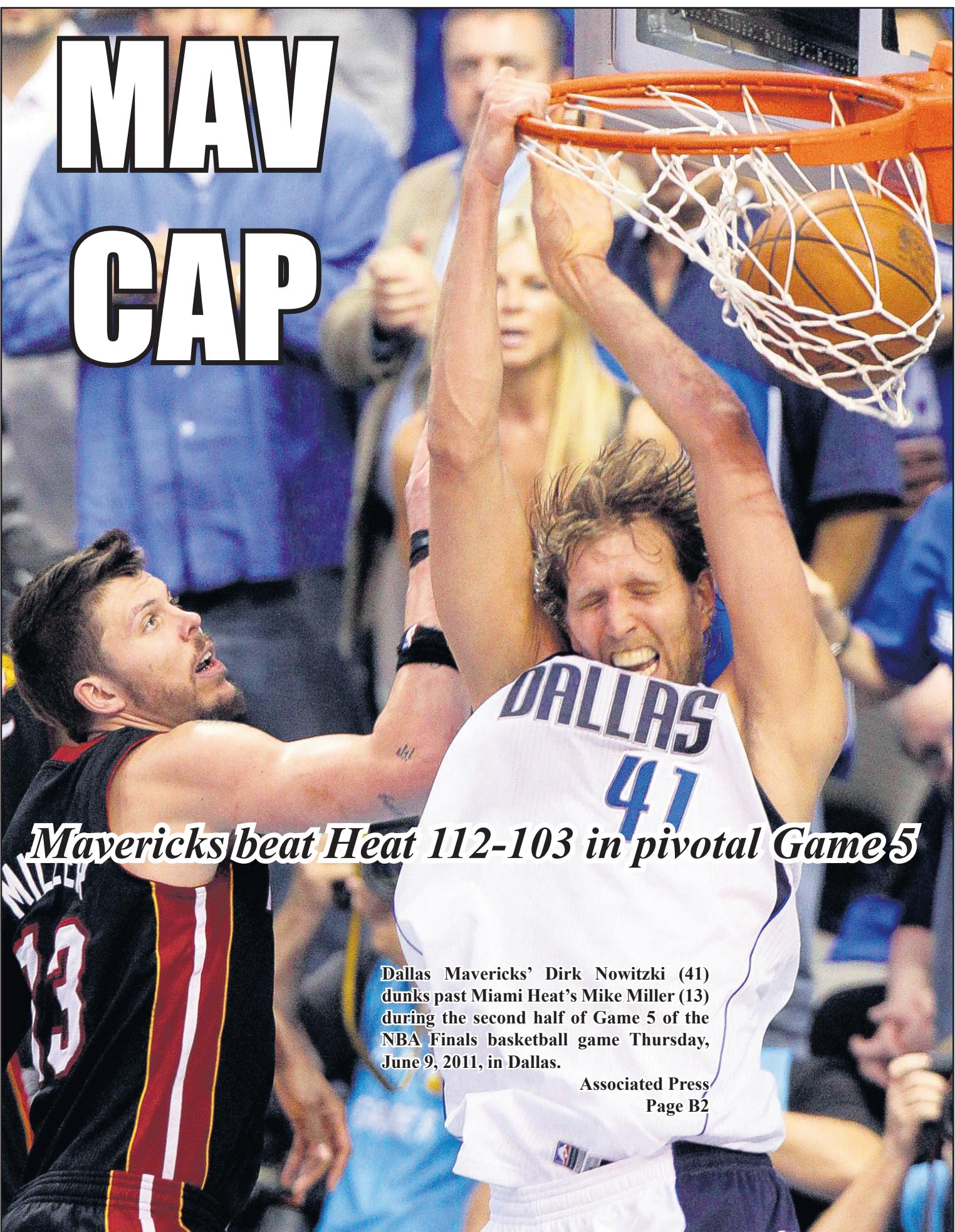
But Chamberlain and the Yankees said they had no idea the injury was so severe when he went for the additional checkup.

Chamberlain said he was "kind of in shock" and shed a few tears at the diagnosis, and said he didn't know how or when he hurt himself.

"I know I can get surgery and get it fixed," he said.

Continued on Page B5

# MAV CAP



*Mavericks beat Heat 112-103 in pivotal Game 5*

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) dunks past Miami Heat's Mike Miller (13) during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA Finals basketball game Thursday, June 9, 2011, in Dallas.

Associated Press  
Page B2

# Mavericks overcome James' triple-double

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

**DALLAS** — Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks finally have the lead in these ultra-close NBA finals, and now it really is “now or never” for LeBron James and the Miami Heat.

Nowitzki scored 29 points, driving for the go-ahead dunk with 2:45 remaining, and the Mavericks beat the Heat 112-103 on Thursday night to take a 3-2 lead in the NBA finals. Five years after going up 2-0 on the Heat, the Mavs finally got that elusive third victory, and can wrap up their first championship in Game 6 at Miami on Sunday night.

“We’re a very resilient team, you know that,” guard Jason Terry said.

“We’ve been in tough battles all playoffs long. It’s not going to stop. It’s going to get even harder. But we’re ready. We’re determined, and this is our time.”

James, who called this game “now or never,” responded from his worst playoff performance with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and Dwyane Wade battled through a sore left hip after a first-quarter collision to finish



Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry (31) and Dirk Nowitzki (41) celebrate after Game 5 of the NBA Finals basketball game against the Miami Heat Thursday, June 9, 2011, in Dallas. The Mavericks won 112-103 to take a 3-2 lead in the series.

with 23 points.

They get the final two games at home, but history is against them as they try to win a title in their first season together: In the 26 previous times finals that were tied 2-2, the Game 5 winner won 19 of them.

The Mavs shot 60 percent through three quarters, briefly gave up the lead in the fourth, then controlled the final few minutes, just as they had in thrilling comebacks in Games 2 and 4.

This time, they got to play

Associated Press

from ahead thanks to some sizzling shooting: 56.5 percent from the field, including 13 of 19 (68 percent) from 3-point range.

Terry scored 21 points and J.J. Barea had 17 for the Mavs, with Nowitzki briefly throw-

ing both arms in the air as he walked off the court surrounded by a sea of blue fans who hope he’ll bring home a championship trophy if they can pull out another victory in Miami.

“I felt great. I felt great. I was in rhythm tonight,” Terry said. “I came out aggressive, something we have to continue to do.

We’re not happy with our defensive performance, but offensively, if we score 100, I told you what would happen.” Their offense was simply too good, despite a good bounce-back for James.

James scored eight points, going just 3 of 11 in Game 4, the first time in 90 postseason games he didn’t hit double figures. It’s been a rough first finals in Miami for James, who has been accused of everything from “shrinking” to “checking out” in the fourth quarters, when he had just nine points through the first four games.

Trying to pump himself up, James wrote “Now or Never!!” on his Twitter page early Thursday morning, later calling this the biggest game of his career. □



David Mathis watches his tee shot on the seventh hole during the first round of the St. Jude Classic golf tournament Thursday, June 9, 2011, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

## David Mathis' 65 gives him first-round lead in Memphis

TERESA M. WALKER

AP Sports Writer

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)** — David Mathis matched his best round ever on the PGA Tour, shooting a 5-under 65 Thursday to take the opening-round lead at the St. Jude Classic. Mathis jumped to the top of the leaderboard late in the day, finishing with six birdies and one late bogey.

He is back on the PGA Tour for a second time thanks to finishing 13th on the Nationwide Tour money list last year.

Robert Karlsson, who lost a four-hole playoff here a year ago, shot a 66 and was tied with John Merrick, Kris Blanks, Kevin Kisner and Colt Knost.

Keegan Bradley and Fabian Gomez each had 67s. Bradley is among the few here who could play their way into the U.S. Open by winning at the TPC Southwind for a second tour victory since the last Open. Bradley won the Byron Nelson Championship two weeks ago.

Retief Goosen and Boo Weekley were among

a group with 68s. Defending champion Lee Westwood opened with a 69.

The 37-year-old Mathis has been playing golf since turning pro in 1997 after leaving Campbell University. He started playing mini tours and was on the Canadian tour before switching to the Nationwide circuit. He first joined the PGA Tour in 2009 when he posted a pair of top-25 finishes, including a tie for 23rd in Memphis.

But he wound up back on the Nationwide Tour last year. St. Jude, sponsored by FedEx, is his 14th event on the PGA Tour this year with five missed cuts.

The native of Winston-Salem, N.C., credited a visit with his coach Patrick Kelley this week for helping straighten out his line when putting. He noticed the difference almost immediately when he started on the back nine and rolled in a 9-footer to save par.

Then he added a birdie putt on the par-3 No. 11 from just inside 19 feet, plus 8-footers for birdies on Nos. 13 and 16. □



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## Oakland Athletics fire manager Bob Geren

**JOSH DUBOW**

AP Sports Writer

**OAKLAND, California (AP)**

— The Oakland Athletics fired manager Bob Geren on Thursday in the midst of a nine-game losing streak that has sent them tumbling to the bottom of the American League West division standings.

Former Arizona manager Bob Melvin will take over for the rest of the season as interim manager in the first midseason managerial change for the organization in 25 years.

Geren's four-plus season tenure at the helm in Oakland was marked by numerous injuries, a lack of offense and high-profile departures as he was unable to post a winning season after taking over an AL West championship team from Ken Macha.

Geren posted a 334-376 record, including a 27-36 mark this season.

The A's have four starting pitchers on the disabled list, including a season-ending shoulder injury for Dallas

Bradon.

Oakland also was without injured All-Star closer Andrew Bailey for the first two months and is last in the AL with just 223 runs through the first 63 games.

The beleaguered manager had come under criticism from his bullpen in recent weeks for a lack of communication with reliever Brian Fuentes, and former Oakland closer Huston Street publicly criticized him.

But it was the rash of injuries and the total lack of offense that led to the current losing streak that spelled the end of his tenure.

This is the first time the A's have fired a manager during the season since getting rid of Jackie Moore after 73 games in 1986.

Jeff Newman took over for 10 games on an interim basis before Tony La Russa was brought in to start a run that included four division titles and the 1989 World Series championship.

Geren, a longtime friend of

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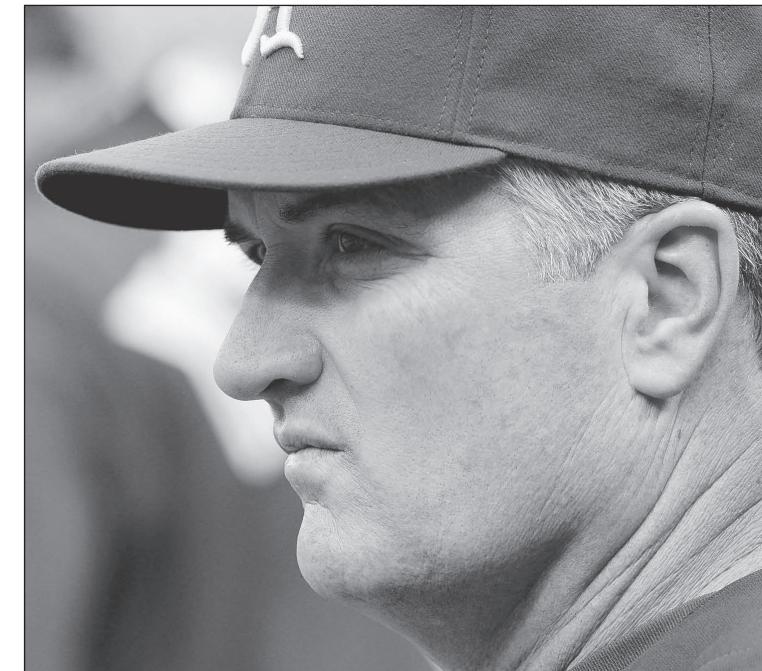
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This May 9, 2011, file photo shows Oakland Athletics manager Bob Geren during a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, in Arlington, Texas. The Athletics have fired Geren in the midst of a nine-game losing streak that has sent them tumbling to the bottom of the AL West standings. Oakland general manager Billy Beane immediately announced Thursday, June 9, 2011, that former Arizona manager and broadcaster Bob Melvin will be the interim manager

Associated Press

Melvin played 10 seasons in the majors as a catcher with the Yankees and White Sox. He batted .233 with 35 homers and 212 RBIs in 1,955 career at-bats. □

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 matinee: 1:30 **PG-13**  
 late show: 11:30

**PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 4**

daily: 5:00 - 8:30 **PG-13**  
 matinee: 2:00 **PG-13**  
 late show: 11:30

**KUNG FU PANDA 2**

daily: 5:00 **PG-13**  
 matinee: 12:30 - 2:45 **PG-13**  
 late show: 11:45

**HANGOVER 2**

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 late show: 11:45

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# Red Sox beat Yankees, go top of AL East



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz hits a two-run home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

## AL Roundup

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Boston Red Sox went top of the American League East division on Wednesday in fitting style, beating the archrival New York Yankees 11-6.

David Ortiz hit one of three Boston homers as the Red Sox extended their dominance of New York this season, making it seven wins from eight over the pinstripes in 2011, including all five at Yankee Stadium.

Carl Crawford and J.D. Drew also connected, both in the ninth inning to break the game open for a second time. Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits and Adrian Gonzalez added two RBIs.

Tireless knuckleballer Tim Wakefield (3-1) took the win for the Red Sox.

### Rangers 7, Tigers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Alexi Ogando pitched an impressive 7 2-3 innings to remain unbeaten this season, guiding Texas to victory over Detroit. Detroit scored 21 runs while

winning the first two games of the series and had taken four straight overall but could find no answer to Ogando (7-0), who struck out seven to match a career high.

Ogando became the first major league pitcher to win his first seven decisions as a starter since Jered Weaver went 9-0 for the Los Angeles Angels in 2006.

Adrian Beltre homered and Elvis Andrus had three hits for the AL West-leading Rangers. Phil Coke (1-6) gave up six runs in five innings in his return to Detroit's rotation.

Rays 4, Angels 3, 10 innings In Anaheim,

Tampa Bay completed its first ever three-game sweep in Anaheim, downing slumping Los Angeles.

Reid Brignac got Tampa Bay's offense started with his first homer of the season and delivered the deciding run with a safety squeeze bunt in the 10th.

The Rays used two pinch-hitters to start the winning rally against Fernando Rodney (2-3). John Jaso walked and Evan Longoria reached on an infield hit. Jaso stole third and scored on Brignac's bunt up the first base line.

Juan Cruz (3-0) pitched a perfect ninth to get the victory and Kyle Farnsworth got three outs for his 13th save in

14 attempts.

The Angels lost their fifth straight game, equaling their longest skid this season.

### Mariners 7, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Miguel Olivo drove in three runs, including a go-ahead two-run double in the 10th inning, as Seattle beat Chicago.

Justin Smoak started the winning rally with a leadoff bloop double off White Sox closer Sergio Santos (2-2). After a walk, Olivo — who had a solo homer in the eighth against his former team — drove in both runners with a grounder.

Mariners reliever Aaron Laffey (1-1) threw a scoreless inning to earn the win and Brandon League pitched a perfect 10th for his AL-leading 17th save of the season.

### Blue Jays 9, Royals 8

In Kansas City, Adam Lind hit a grand slam and Jayson Nix added a three-run homer to power Toronto past Kansas City.

Corey Patterson snapped an 0-for-11 skid with four hits and scored two Toronto runs. Blue Jays starter Carlos Villanueva (4-0) had one rough inning, the fourth when he allowed four runs, but pitched seven innings, allowing six hits.

He has won his past eight

decisions.

Royals starter Danny Duffy (0-2) was pulled after four innings and 96 pitches, allowing five runs and four walks.

### Twins 3, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Ben Revere's two-out RBI single in the 10th inning lifted Minnesota over Cleveland in a meeting of two teams going in opposite directions.

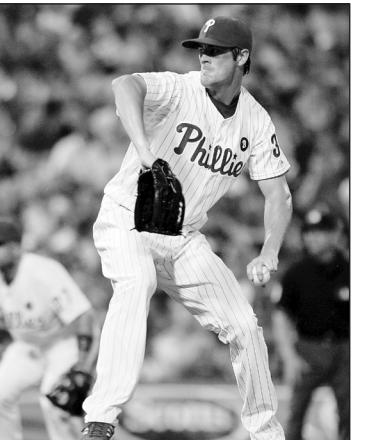
After Drew Butera doubled with two outs off Chris Perez (2-2), Revere flared his base hit into shallow left. Butera scored sliding ahead of the throw to the plate.

The last-placed Twins took the series and won for the sixth time in seven games, raising hopes of a revival after a disappointing start to the season.

Matt Capps (2-3) got the win despite giving up a tying two-out homer in the ninth. Phil Dumaitrait gave up a two-out double in the 10th before claiming his first career save.

**In other AL games it was Minnesota 3, Cleveland 2, 10 innings; Boston 11, N.Y. Yankees 6; Baltimore 3, Oakland 2; Texas 7, Detroit 3; Seattle 7, Chicago White Sox 4, 10 innings; Toronto 9, Kansas City 8; and Tampa Bay 4, L.A. Angels 3, 10 innings. □**

## Hamels supreme as Phillies down Dodgers



Hamels (8-2) walked none while lowering his ERA to 2.58. He improved to 3-0 with a 1.18 ERA in five career regular-season starts against Los Angeles.

Ryan Howard's sixth-inning homer came off Hiroki Kuroda (5-7) and gave Philadelphia a 1-0 lead. It broke a season-worst drought for the Phillies, who had gone 65 1-3 innings without a home run.

Howard had been 0 for 13 with six strikeouts previously against Kuroda.

Braves 3, Marlins 2, 10 innings In Miami, Freddie Freeman singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as Atlanta extended Florida's losing streak to seven games.

Braves veteran Chipper Jones walked with one out in the 10th against Mike Dunn (4-4), took second on a single by Brian McCann and scored on the hit by Freeman, who had been 0 for 7 in the series.

The Marlins went 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position and are 8 for 54 (.148) in those situations during the first six games of their dismal homestand.

Six of the Marlins' seven losses during their slump have been by a single run.

The Marlins had tied the game one strike from defeat; Mike Stanton hit a two-run single off Braves closer Craig Kimbrel (2-2) to make the score 2-2. □

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# Bolt sets season's best time in 200 meters

PAUL O'MAHONY

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) —

Usain Bolt set the quickest time in the world this season as he eased to victory in the 200 meters at a Diamond League meet on Thursday, while Caster Semenya also set her best time of the year but could only finish third behind Halima Hachlaf in the 800.

The Jamaican world record holder raced through the rain at the Bislett Games to win convincingly in 19.86 seconds. Norwegian Jaysumma Saidy Ndure was second in 20.43, while Mario Forsythe of Jamaica was third in 20.49. Bolt said he was very pleased with a time that went some way to answering his critics as he tunes up his technique ahead of this year's worlds in

South Korea, which run from Aug. 27.

"I was never really out of business," Bolt said after the race. "Business was just a bit slow." The world and Olympic champion was unperturbed by the downpour that fell as the race got under way and never looked under any real pressure from the rest of the field.

"I always seem to compete best when it's raining," Bolt said. "I'm happy — I'm back to being Usain Bolt. Not perfect, but I think I'm getting there." In the women's 800, Hachlaf of Morocco also set a world-leading time to hold off Russia's Mariya Savinova and Semenya of South Africa. Hachlaf crossed the finishing line in 1:58.27, with Savinova trailing in 1:58.44, ahead of Semenya with 1:58.61.

The 20-year-old Semenya is battling to rediscover her form after having to undergo a gender test following her victory in the 800 at the 2009 worlds. She finished second in last weekend's Diamond League event at Eugene, Oregon.

The time was her best of the year so far as she strives to reach her peak in time for South Korea.

"I'm just three seconds away from my best," she told The Associated Press after the race. She also revealed that she is preparing to race at Diamond League events in Lausanne and Stockholm later this summer.

"I'm happy with the time today," Semenya said. "Now I just need to go back and work on it more — 1:57 is what I'm planning for the next races."

## YANKEES

Continued from Page B1

The Yankees said they would send reports on Chamberlain to noted orthopedist Dr. James Andrews.

Chamberlain, Andrews and the Yankees plan to discuss the condition before deciding on a course of action.

While Chamberlain spoke on the Yankees bench before Thursday night's game against Boston, his father sat in his wheelchair outside the New York dugout.

Harlan Chamberlain said it was "kind of a foregone conclusion" his son would need Tommy John surgery, in which a ligament is reconstructed in an elbow.

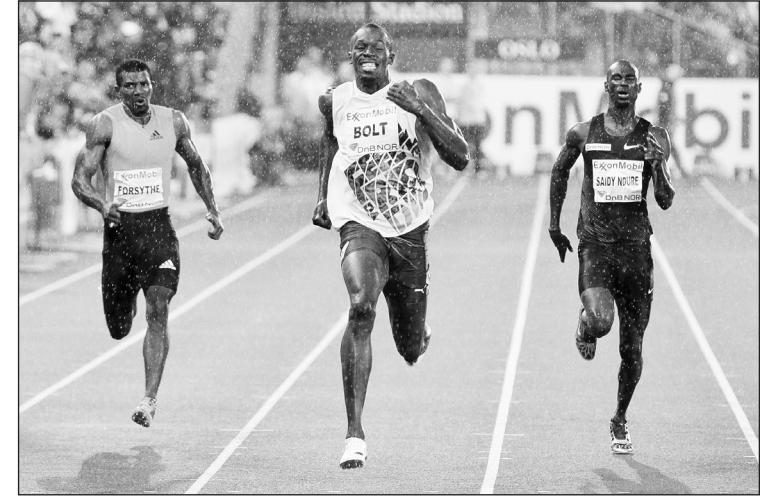
The recovery time is usually listed as 12 to 18 months, though Harlan Chamberlain said he thought it could be 8 to 9 months for a reliever.

"He's done for the season," his dad said. "Now that he's facing what every pitcher doesn't want to face, he's going to face it with a positive attitude. Let's get it done."

Said Yankees manager Joe Girardi: "My guess is he's going to have to have the surgery." The 25-year-old Chamberlain is 2-0 with a 2.83 ERA in 27 games. The hard-throwing righty has been a key member

of the Yankees' staff for several years, and has pitched in a variety of roles.

The Yankees already were missing setup man Rafael Soriano, out with inflammation



Usain Bolt of Jamaica, centre, wins the 200m at the Diamond league Bislett Games in Oslo, Norway Thursday June 9 2011, clocking the year's fastest time of 19.86 seconds in rainy conditions

Associated Press

It was Norway's Christina Vukicevic who first lifted the stadium's spirits as she comfortably held on to an early lead to take the 100-meter hurdles in 12.79.

On the men's side, Kenyan Paul Kipsiele Koech strode away from his rivals in the 3,000 steeplechase to set the best time of the season in a track record 8:01.83.

His countryman Nicholas Kip-

tanui Kemboi took the 1,500 in 3:37.25, his best time of the season, a feat equaled by Arles Merritt of the United States, who won the 110 hurdles in 13.12.

World championship silver medalist Kyriakos Ioannou of Cyprus earned victory in the high jump with a leap of 2.28, while Olympic champion Gerd Kanter won the discus with a throw of 65.14. □

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## Dutch find different E. coli, pull beet sprouts

ARTHUR MAX  
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Dutch authorities recalled red beet sprouts from three countries after samples were found to be contaminated with a strain of E. coli bacteria that was apparently less dangerous

the toll to 29 in less than six weeks.

The Dutch Food Safety Authority said Thursday laboratories were still trying to identify the Dutch strain of E. coli, but said there have been no immediate reports of serious illness from it.

Germany. The cause of that outbreak has so far eluded German investigators.

Only one Dutch grower, a company called Hamu, was found with contaminated beets, and other produce grown on its farms were cleared of suspicion, said Esther Filon, a spokeswoman for the Dutch regulation agency. "It's not the same as in Germany. You can become ill, but as far as we know at this moment, it is not lethal," she told The Associated Press.

She said the authorities were trying to trace all shipments from the grower.

The agency said Hamu, based in the town of Kerkdriel, 44 miles (70 kilometers) southeast of Amsterdam, had exported beet sprouts to Belgium as well as selling them on the Dutch and German markets.

There are hundreds of E. coli bacteria strains in nature, but only a few are deadly to humans and the bacteria is more commonly known as a source of food poisoning or severe stomach problems.

People naturally carry several harmless E. coli strains in their intestines and the bacteria is also widely found in cows, sheep and other mammals. Strains which are harmless to animals can sometimes be lethal for humans. □

Still, the agency said it was definitely not the same E. coli strain that killed 29 people, sickened 2,900 others and left hundreds with serious complications, most of them in



German Health Minister Daniel Bahr attends a meeting of the German Federal Parliament, Bundestag, in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, June 9, 2011. Germany's national disease control center says another person has died in the European E. coli outbreak and 160 more people have been reported ill, but that the rate of new sicknesses is continuing to decline. The Robert Koch Institute said Thursday that more than 2,800 people, more than 720 of whom are suffering from a serious complication that can cause kidney failure, have now been reported sickened in Germany, the country at the epicenter of the E. coli outbreak whose origin has not yet been found.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

than the one causing Europe's deadly E. coli crisis.

German health officials, meanwhile, reported that three more people died of the ailment Thursday, raising

## New plan aims to end HIV in children by 2015

EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — World leaders launched a global plan Thursday with the goal of ensuring that every baby is born HIV-free by 2015 — and that their HIV mothers live to raise them.

The U.N. says nearly every minute a baby is born with the HIV virus. In 2009, that meant 370,000 children were infected with HIV, almost all in low- and middle-income countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. At the U.N.'s high-level meeting on AIDS, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon joined other leaders to launch the roadmap to achieve the goal of eliminating mother to child transmission of HIV in the next four years.

"We believe that by 2015 children everywhere can be born free of HIV and that their mothers can remain healthy," said Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, the U.N. agency fighting the disease. "This new global plan is realistic, it is achievable and it is driven by the most affected countries." U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator Eric Goosby called preventing new HIV infections in children a "smart investment."

"Working together, we can reverse this tide as we have done in the United States and they are very close to doing in Botswana," he said.

The plan — "Countdown to Zero" — was developed by team led by UNAIDS and the U.S. President's Emergency

Plan for AIDS Relief, which Goosby heads. The team included representatives from more than 30 countries and 50 organizations.

The plan includes ensuring that all pregnant women have access to quality lifesaving HIV prevention and treatment services for themselves and their children and that there are adequate financial resources and trained health staff to meet the goal. In 2009, the U.N. said an estimated 42,000-60,000 pregnant women died because of HIV almost all of them in developing countries. In high-income countries the number of new HIV infections was virtually zero and the number of child and maternal deaths due to HIV was also almost zero. □

## Study finds out why smokers gain weight after they quit

LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists say they have finally discovered why smokers tend to gain some weight when they kick the habit.

It turns out that nicotine can rev up brain cells that normally signal people to stop eating when they are full, researchers report in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*.

The weight connection is not huge: On average, quitters gain less than 10 pounds (5 kilograms). Still, it is a worry that many smokers cite when asked why they don't try to quit. Now the question is whether the discovery might lead to better treatments to help them quit without worrying about weight.

Yale University associate research scientist Yann Mineur stumbled onto the connection while studying a nicotine-related substance in mice — and the animals suddenly started eating less. Nicotine hooks onto a variety of receptors, or docking sites, on the surface of cells. That is how it triggers addiction in one part of the brain.

But when it comes to weight, the Yale research found that both nicotine and the related drug cytisine were activating a different receptor than the one involved in addiction. This one is located on a small set of neurons in the hypothalamus, a region that regulates appetite.

When they gave nicotine to mice without that cellular pathway, it didn't help them lose weight like it did normal mice.

Smoking causes cancer, heart attacks and a host of other ailments so worry about modest weight gain should not deter someone from quitting. But smokers who do have that concern should try nicotine-based smoking-cessation treatments, said study senior author Marina Picciotto, a Yale professor of psychiatry and neurobiology.

The other drug used in the mouse experiments, cytisine, is sold in Eastern Europe for smoking cessation but not in the U.S., and she would like to see if there is data on the weight of smokers abroad who have used it.

Developing a drug to target only these specific receptors would be difficult, she cautions, because they are also involved in the body's stress responses in ways that could lead to such side effects as high blood pressure. □

## Drugmaker UCB pleads guilty to off-label marketing

NEDRA PICKLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The maker of epilepsy treatment Keppra agreed Thursday to pay more than \$34 million for marketing the medication to treat migraine headaches in violation of U.S. drug laws.

The U.S. subsidiary of Belgian manufacturer UCB pleaded guilty in federal court in Washington to a misdemeanor in connection with the misbranding. The government had approved Keppra to treat seizures in adults and children with epilepsy. A manufacturer may not market or promote a drug for any use not specified in its approved product label. Prosecutors said UCB

claimed that studies showed Keppra was safe and effective for treating migraines, without disclosing that UCB sponsored the studies or that the company's own clinical trial failed to demonstrate such effectiveness.

UCB, which has its U.S. headquarters in Smyrna, Georgia, will pay a \$7.55 million criminal fine, forfeit \$1 million in assets and pay \$25.7 million to resolve civil claims that it promoted off-label uses including migraine, pain, bipolar, mood disorders and anxiety.

The federal government will get \$15.8 million of the civil settlement and nearly \$10 million will go to state Medicaid programs. □

# U.S. court says Microsoft must pay in patent case

JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Microsoft Corp. must pay a \$290 million judgment awarded to a small Canadian software company for infringing on one of its patents inside its popular Microsoft Word program.

The high court unanimously refused to throw out the judgment against the world's largest software maker.

Toronto-based i4i sued Microsoft in 2007, saying it owned the technology behind a tool used in Microsoft Word. The technology in question gave Word 2003 and Word 2007 users an improved way to edit XML, which is computer code that tells the program how to interpret and display a document's contents.

The lower courts say Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft willfully infringed on the patent, and ordered the world's largest software maker to pay i4i \$290 million and stop selling versions of Word containing the infringing technology.

Microsoft wanted the multimillion dollar judgment against it erased because it claims a judge used the wrong standard in instructing the jury that came up with the award.

The software company said a jury should determine whether a patent is invalid by a "preponderance" of the evidence instead of the more heightened "clear and convincing" evidence standard instructed by the judge.

The Supreme Court said the "clear and convincing" standard was the correct one.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who wrote the court's opinion, said the courts have interpreted the law the same way for 30 years. During this period, Congress has often amended the patent law, she said.

"Not once, so far as we (and Microsoft) are aware, has it even considered a proposal to lower the standard of proof," Sotomayor said.

Microsoft now sells versions of Word that do not contain the technology in question.

"While the outcome is not what we had hoped for, we will continue to advocate for changes to the law that will prevent abuse of the patent system and protect inventors who hold patents representing true innovation," the company said in a statement. □

## China's Sina plans English-language microblog

JOE McDONALD,  
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Sina Corp., a popular Chinese Web portal, said Thursday it will launch an English-language microblog aimed at users abroad, entering a market dominated by U.S.-based Twitter.

The service will be a version of Sina's Chinese-language Weibo microblog, said a company spokesman, Mao Taotao.

"We're now developing an English-language microblog service, but there is no timetable to launch it," Mao said. "The service is aimed at overseas users, but we don't target users from a particular country."

Reports last week that Sina was considering such a service prompted suggestions it might be a rival to Twitter. But its appeal could be hurt by Chinese Internet controls that require microblog services to delete politically sensitive material.

"As a Chinese internet company, we will continue to abide by Chinese laws and regulations," said Mao, the Sina spokesman.

China's top Internet companies are profitable

and growing fast but are only beginning to expand abroad.

The country has the world's most populous Internet market, with more than 450 million people online at the end of last year, according to the government.

Beijing encourages Web use for business and education but operates an extensive filtering system to block access to material considered subversive or pornographic.

Sina CEO Charles Chao told Forbes magazine in March that Weibo has at least 100 employees monitoring content 24 hours a day.

Google Inc. closed its China-based search engine last year after saying it no longer wanted to abide by a government requirement to censor results.

Microblog services are hugely popular in China despite extensive government efforts to control content. Sina said last month the number of regular users of Weibo, launched in 2009, has risen to be more than 140 million.

Beijing appears to have tightened its Internet policing after online calls for protests like those that have swept the Middle East. □



In this Nov. 23, 2010 file photo, the corporate logo for Citigroup is shown, in New York. Citigroup Inc. said Thursday, June 9, 2011, that hackers accessed the credit card information of tens of thousands of its North American customers.

Associated Press

## In latest attack, hackers steal Citibank card data

KELVIN CHAN

PALLAVI GOGOI

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — About 200,000 Citibank credit card customers in North America have had their names, account numbers and email addresses

stolen by hackers who broke into Citi's online account site.

Citigroup Inc. said Thursday it discovered that account information for about 1 percent of its credit card customers had been viewed by hackers. Citi has more than 21 million credit card customers in North America, according to its 2010 annual report.

The New York-based bank, which discovered the problem during routine monitoring, didn't say exactly how many accounts were breached. Citi said it was contacting those customers.

The bank said hackers weren't able to gain access to social security numbers, birth dates, card expiration dates or card security codes. That kind of information often leads to identity theft, where cyber criminals empty out bank accounts and apply for multiple credit cards.

That can debilitate the finances and credit of victims. Citi customers could still be vulnerable to other problems. Details about their bank accounts and financial information linked to them could be acquired using the email in-

formation and account numbers hackers stole.

The Citi data breach was the latest in a series of recent high-profile data attacks against a number of major firms.

--On June 1, Google Inc. said that the personal Gmail accounts of several hundred people, including senior U.S. government officials, military personnel and political activists, had been breached.

--On May 30, broadcaster PBS confirmed that hackers cracked the network's website and posted a phony story claiming dead rapper Tupac Shakur was alive in New Zealand.

--On May 28, defense contractor Lockheed Martin Corp. said it had detected a "significant and tenacious attack" against its computer networks. The company said it took swift and deliberate actions to protect the network and the systems remain secure.

--In April, media and electronics company Sony Corp.'s PlayStation Network was shut down in April after a massive security breach that affected more than 100 million online accounts. □

# Ford to build hybrid-only minivan; challenge Toyota

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

STERLING HEIGHTS, Michigan (AP) — Ford Motor Co. will sell a hybrid-only minivan in the U.S. next year in a bid to challenge Toyota's hybrid dominance.

The five-passenger van will come in two versions: A gas-electric hybrid, like Toyota's Prius, that gets more than 41 miles per gallon (17.4 kpl), and a plug-in hybrid, like the Chevrolet Volt, which will run on electric power but have a backup gas engine that kicks in when the power runs low. Gas and diesel versions of the minivan, called the C-Max, went on sale late last year in Europe, where they have been a hit for Ford. But the company decided to make the C-Max a hybrid-only vehicle in the U.S. after seeing buyer demand for fuel-efficient vehicles spike in the last few

months. Gas prices are up 20 percent since February, although they've come down in recent weeks.

Ford is eager to have a hybrid-only vehicle.

The company has sold more than 140,000 hybrid versions of some of its vehicles, like the Fusion sedan and Escape SUV, over the last six years. But that falls far short of Toyota Motor Corp., which recently sold its 1 millionth Prius in the U.S. Customers seem to prefer hybrid-only cars like the Prius, which has a unique look that can't be confused with a gas-powered car.

Ford wants to jump in before Toyota gets too far in its planned expansion of the Prius family. Toyota has a five-passenger Prius wagon, the Prius V, going on sale in the U.S. later this year. Toyota also is planning to sell a plug-in hybrid version of the Prius

next year.

Ford originally planned to sell a seven-passenger gas version of the C-Max in the U.S. in 2012.

But it's scrapping that vehicle for now because customers have expressed far more interest in a five-passenger hybrid. "Customers have really changed in the last 120 days," Ford marketing chief Jim Farley said during an event at the Sterling Heights, Michigan, plant that will make parts for the C-Max. Ford will build the vans at its Michigan Assembly Plant outside Detroit and export some to Europe.

Hybrids use a combination of an internal combustion engine and a battery pack to power a car or truck.

Ford did not give out many details about the C-Max Thursday. It didn't give the exact date it will go on sale, how far it will go in all-electric mode



Jim Farley, Ford Group Vice President of Marketing, Sales and Service stands next to the Ford C-Max hybrid at the Ford Van Dyke Transmission Plant in Sterling Heights, Mich., Thursday, June 9, 2011.

Associated Press

or how much it will cost. But Farley said Ford can bring down the cost considerably

because the hybrid and the plug-in hybrid share many parts. The Volt, for example, starts at \$40,280, but it doesn't share its hybrid system with any other General Motors Co. vehicle.

Aaron Bragman, an analyst with IHS Automotive, thinks Ford could sell the C-Max hybrid for as low as \$25,000 and the plug-in hybrid for a few thousand dollars more, making the cost more comparable to the Nissan Leaf electric car, which starts at \$32,780. Both the Leaf and the Volt are now eligible for a \$7,500 tax credit.

Still, Bragman said Ford will have a hard time taking the hybrid mantle away from Toyota, since the Japanese company has such a head start in buyers' minds.

"The Prius is synonymous with 'hybrid,'" he said. □

## Spain to impose more labor market reforms

DANIEL WOOLLS

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — The Spanish government on Thursday defended key labor market reforms which it plans to impose by decree and have angered both unions and business leaders as the country battles a 21 percent jobless rate.

The government will approve the reforms on collective bargaining on Friday, taking a unilateral decision after four months of talks between unions and the main business federation, known as CEOE, collapsed last week.

The package, however, will be opened up to possible amendments later this year. The government proposal seeks to update legislation that is mostly 30 years old. Economists say the old system is rigid and particularly harmful as Spain fights to overcome recession and desperately needs to create jobs, raise tax revenue and ward off fears it might be the next EU country



A demonstrator hits a pan as others shout slogans during a protest near the Spanish Parliament in Madrid, Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Associated Press

to need a bailout.

Both unions and business groups, however, found something to complain about the government's proposed reforms.

The CEOE is unhappy with a clause that stipulates that when a collective bargaining agreement expires, its terms will remain in effect while labor and management negoti-

ate a new one.

Unions, meanwhile, do not like clauses that seek to give businesses greater flexibility, such as having employees do longer shifts when the workload demands it and shorter ones when business is slow. Labor Minister Valeriano Gomez met with union officials Thursday and the CEOE on Wednesday.

CEOE leader Juan Rosell said the government package ignores agreements-in-principle the two sides had reached when they came close to an overall deal before the talks collapsed.

"I do not like the music or the lyrics," Rosell said.

Spanish union leader Ignacio Fernandez Toxo said Thursday that this and previous labor market reforms enacted last year — centered on making it cheaper for companies to lay off workers and less risky to hire them — will not create jobs.

He said in a radio interview Thursday that the underlying problem lies in government austerity measures that have sapped household spending and hindered growth.

The labor minister said you can't please everybody all the time.

"Each side has a vision of its role in labor relations. The role of the government is to impose order, to impose peace," Gomez said. □



# Americans' equity in their homes near a record low

CHRISTOPHER S. RU-GABER  
DEREK KRAVITZ  
AP Business Writers

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Falling U.S. home prices have shrunk equity so much that the proportion of their homes that Americans actually own is near its lowest point since World War II.

Average home equity plunged from more than 61 percent at the start of 2001 to 38 percent in the January-March quarter this year, the Federal Reserve said in a report Thursday. That drop comes as home prices in big metro areas have reached their lowest level since 2002. The Fed's quarterly report shows how much wealth, or net worth, Americans have gained or lost. Net worth is the value of assets such as homes and stocks, minus debts like mortgages and credit cards.

Americans' overall net worth grew 1.65 percent in the January-March period, to \$58.06 trillion, because of stock market gains. Stock

values as measured by the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index gained \$970 billion last quarter. But since then, they've lost \$651 billion through Wednesday's stock market closing.

The report showed that corporations are still hoarding cash. Excluding banks and other financial firms, companies held \$1.9 trillion in cash at the end of the January-March quarter. That was slightly more than in the previous quarter and set another record.

The reluctance of companies to spend more of their cash stockpiles helps explain why job growth has been slow. U.S. employers added only 54,000 jobs in May, far fewer than the average of 220,000 they added in the previous three months. The unemployment rate is 9.1 percent, slightly higher than when the year began. The Fed report showed that household debt declined in the January-March period at an annual rate of 2 percent from the previous quarter. That drop was due



In this June 3, 2011 photo, members of the Home Defenders League rally in front of the Bank Of America in San Jose, Calif. The Obama administration is blaming the three largest U.S. mortgage lenders for the failures of its foreclosure-prevention program. It says they've done little to help people at risk of losing their homes

Associated Press

entirely to a decline in mortgages.

Auto loans, student loans and

other consumer credit rose 2.4 percent — the second straight gain after nine consecutive declines. But analysts say the increase is driven by more people, many of them unemployed, borrowing money to attend school.

Average household wealth rose to \$517,614 last quarter. It's risen nearly 19 percent from its early-2009 bottom. But it's still about 11.5 percent below its peak in mid-2007. □

Normally, greater wealth would spark consumer spending. But their shrunken home equity is making many people reluctant to spend freely. That's holding back growth, because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of the economy.

Debt now accounts for 119 percent of disposable income — down from a peak of 135 percent in late 2007. Many Americans are reducing their

nearly \$119,000 on mortgages, credit cards, auto loans and other debt, according to an Associated Press analysis of government data. That's down from more than \$125,000 in 2008.

Normally when people pay down their mortgages, they see their home equity rise. But since the housing bubble burst in 2006, prices have fallen more than they did during the Great Depression. In many cases, people are paying off mortgage interest and losing equity at the same time.

There are 74.5 million homeowners in the United States. Nearly 25 percent of those homeowners are "underwater," which means they have negative equity in their homes, according to the private real estate research firm CoreLogic.

Another 25 percent are nearing that point.

The outlook for the housing market remains dim.

Fixed mortgage rates have dropped for eight straight weeks. But most people can't take advantage of the low rates because they can't meet tougher lending requirements. Many who could afford to refinance did so last year, when rates hit their lowest levels in decades. □

## Japan GDP shrank a shade less than first thought

TOMOKO A. HOSAKA  
Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's economic contraction in the first quarter that stemmed from the March earthquake and tsunami was slightly milder than first estimated, the government said Thursday.

Real gross domestic product shrank at an annualized rate of 3.5 percent in the January-March period, compared with 3.7 percent in the Cabinet Office's preliminary report last month.

The smaller contraction doesn't change the fact that the world's No. 3 economy fell back into recession in the January-March quarter. The reading marks the second straight quarter that GDP — a measure of the value of all goods and services produced domestically — retreated.

The March 11 disasters left more than 23,000 people dead or missing, and wiped out entire towns in the hardest-hit areas. Damage is estimated at \$300 billion, making it the



Pedestrians are reflected on the electronic stock board of a securities firm with the day's price of the Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) seen at right, yellow, in Tokyo Thursday, June 9, 2011.

Associated Press

most expensive natural disaster in history.

Factories throughout the region were damaged, leading to serious shortages of parts and components for automakers and other manufacturers. Consumer spending tumbled. And a crippled nuclear power plant caused widespread power shortages that added to the headaches faced by businesses and households.

The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday slashed its outlook for Japan as a result, predicting that the economy will shrink 0.7 percent this year instead of growing 1.4 percent.

Japan, however, should recover "sharply" over the summer as rebuilding progresses and supply constraints ease, the IMF said. It expects GDP to expand 2.9 percent in 2012. □

The average household owes

# Iconic Buffalo Springfield stampedes into Bonnaroo

CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Entertainment Writer

MANCHESTER, Tennessee (AP) — Richie Furay knows a little something about miracles in his new career as a preacher.

A Buffalo Springfield reunion may not strictly qualify as a one. But like most folks he'd written off the possibility when the band famously flamed out in 1968, ending a short but incandescent run that would ripple through music for decades to come.

"People have asked me did I think The Buffalo Springfield would ever get back together again, and my answer was a short, 'Never, it's not gonna happen,'" Furay said in a phone interview last Saturday before the band's soundcheck in Los Angeles. "That old saying, 'Never say never,' is true." The surviving members of the California quintet — Furay, Stephen Stills and Neil Young — will make their only festival appearance this year on Saturday at Bonnaroo, serving as a focal point for an event heavy on bands influenced by the folk- and country-rock pioneers.

Young first broached the idea of a reunion in a song, "Buffalo Springfield Again" from 2000's "Silver & Gold," and finally reached out personally last year to invite Furay and Stills to join him at his annual Bridge School benefit concert in October.

Fans cheered the reunion and, more importantly, the band enjoyed it. Over the years their relationships sometimes bore the lingering strain of that 1960s breakup. But not this time. Things were so much fun, they made plans for a six-date mini-tour in California to warm up for Bonnaroo and have since announced a fall tour. There's a harmony these days that didn't exist during the band's revolving-door run from 1966-68.

"Nobody's looking for a career move or anything," Furay said. "This isn't a career move. This is just a bunch of guys who played music together 40 years ago having fun, readdressing the music that we played, and there's no

agendas. ... Man, it's so much more relaxed and I am going to speak for Neil and for Stephen, we're just having fun. There's no reason to be doing this if everyone isn't having fun and everyone's hav-

held together just long enough to record one album together, one album apart and enough leftovers for a third.

In these few dozen tracks is a large portion of the DNA for today's thriving folk- and



Buffalo Springfield's Stephen Stills, left, and Neil Young perform at the Fox Theater in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, June 1, 2011. The surviving members of the California quintet Buffalo Springfield — Furay, Stephen Stills and Neil Young — will make their only festival appearance this year on Saturday at Bonnaroo, serving as a focal point for an event heavy on bands influenced by the folk- and country-rock pioneers.

(AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)



Music lovers flock around the fountain to cool off during the opening day of the Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester, Tenn., Thursday, June 9, 2011.

(AP Photo/Dave Martin)

ing fun. We knew that back at the Bridge School. It was like stepping back in time."

And it's an exciting time to revisit. Buffalo Springfield

country-rock scenes. Buffalo Springfield alongside groups like The Byrds helped meld sounds no one really thought belonged together at the time.

Folk purists felt rock 'n' roll was abusive, and rock purists didn't want to fluff up their music. And the country guys had no idea what to make of it all.

Buffalo Springfield — which originally included bassist Bruce Palmer and drummer Dewey Martin, who have both passed away — had just one big hit in its short run, but its commercial success was inverse to its influence. Tension in the band between Young and Stills and legal problems for Palmer led to the band's split. Young and Stills went on to success as solo artists and together in Crosby, Stills, Nash & (sometimes) Young. Furay formed the influential country-rock band Poco with latter-day Springfield member Jim Messina before forming the nondenominational Calvary Chapel in Bloomfield, Colorado.

The band entered the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. Songs like the band's biggest hit "For What It's Worth," "Bluebird," "Mr. Soul" and the iconic "Broken Arrow," performed live for the first time during the reunion, with their topical themes and open-hearted intent, still resonate with listeners today — perhaps as much as ever. The band lived during a politically tumultuous time and reappears in a time that feels just as stormy. "Just the faces have changed," said Furay, who now lives in Colorado.

The ideas and influences of Buffalo Springfield can be felt every year at Bonnaroo, an all-genre event that nevertheless has a soft spot for roots rock.

You could easily call bands like Mumford & Sons, My Morning Jacket, The Decemberists, Ray LaMontagne, Old Crow Medicine Show and many others in the festival's four-day lineup distant descendants of Buffalo Springfield.

Organizers of Bonnaroo, which kicks off Thursday, think it was a coup to land the reunited act's only festival date. It also was another chance to look forward by looking back. □

# Morgan Freeman on new 'Wormhole'

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Morgan Freeman calls his mind-expanding series "Through the Wormhole," but he doesn't recommend you take the title literally.

"Here's the thing about going into a wormhole: Where are you going to come out?" He chuckles. "And if you go in, you can't be worrying about getting back. So I don't know about that."

What Freeman does know is, he likes taking mind trips. He likes asking big questions and seeing where his mental odyssey will take him.

He's at it again for a second season of "Through the Wormhole," which premieres Wednesday on cable's Science channel. And these questions loom bigger than any single answer.

Episodes will deal with such puzzlers as: Are there more than three dimensions? What do aliens look like? Is there an edge to the universe? Can we live forever?

This week, Freeman starts things off with a bang by inquiring: Is there life after death?

"Is the soul a myth, or one of the fundamental elements of the universe?" he poses on the episode. "Where does consciousness come from? And where does it go when we die?"

"Ultimately, every one of us will discover the truth," Freeman tells his audience consolingly. "But will we ever enter our final hour knowing our fate?"

Freeman seems the perfect guy to lead this kind of quest. An Oscar-winning actor who, by the way, has played God in not one but two films ("Bruce Almighty" and "Evan Almighty"), he has a reassuring, even soulful manner that makes the cosmological feel not quite so overwhelming. □

## Entertainment Briefs

### MTV pulls plug on 'Skins' for season 2

NEW YORK (AP) — MTV says it won't be bringing back its racy teen drama "Skins" for a second season.

The show "didn't connect with a U.S. audience as much as we had hoped," MTV spokesman Nathaniel Brown said Thursday in an announcement that should have surprised no one. A hit on British television, "Skins" premiered on MTV in January in an Americanized version. But an initial audience of 3.3 million viewers shrank to 1.2 million viewers for the season finale. Meanwhile, a TV watchdog group blasted the show's content. Criticism was further inflamed when a newspaper story suggested that scenes with underage actors might violate federal child pornography laws. A number of advertisers pulled their commercials from the series, which depicted teens engaging in sexual activity as well as drug and alcohol abuse. □

### NYC Black Eyed Peas concert canceled

NEW YORK (AP) — A scheduled Black Eyed Peas benefit concert in Central Park has been canceled due to severe thunderstorms. The concert, which was expected to draw up to 60,000 spectators to the park's Great Lawn, was originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, but was delayed an hour and then canceled all together because of the weather. The concert to benefit the Robin Hood Foundation was also to feature appearances by Natasha Bedingfield, LL Cool J, Carole King, MC Hammer, and Debbie Harry. A spokeswoman for the concert did not know if organizers plan to reschedule the event. □

### Cowell talks Cole at 'X Factor' auditions

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — At auditions before a live audience for "The X Factor," Simon Cowell sounded like he wanted people to move on from the recent breakup on the show's judges panel replacing British pop singer Cheryl Cole with American pop singer Nicole Scherzinger. He described Cole's exit as less of a "big deal as everybody thought." That was Thursday in New Jersey. Earlier in the week, Fox and producers announced Scherzinger, who was originally signed on to co-host the show, would slide over to the judges table alongside Cowell, Paula Abdul and LA Reid. Cowell said the show will not re-tape episodes already filmed that feature Cole. Cowell left "American Idol" in May of 2010 after its ninth season. The U.S. version of "The X Factor" will premiere on Fox in September. □

### Ex-'Hills' star Patridge keeps momentum going

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER,  
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Bikini-clad Audrina Patridge was soaking up some sun by a pool in Los Angeles a few years ago when a reality TV producer spotted the aspiring model-actress. It was a chance meeting that

that, it's like, "Wow," Patridge said. "A lot of people, they think they already know me."

That may be because her public profile hasn't lessened all that much since "The Hills" wrapped last summer.

Patridge quickly signed up for



**Audrina Patridge is shown during a photo shoot in Detroit. Plucked from obscurity a few years ago, Patridge solders on as actress, model, and reality star.**

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

ultimately led to a six-season run on the smash MTV series "The Hills."

These days, Patridge has traded her MTV gig in Hollywood for a web series in Detroit. Yet the 26-year-old beauty continues to attract attention — and maybe an occasional fan mee-lee. Last week at an airport in Mexico, she was overrun by fans, and earlier this week in Detroit, Patridge had an encounter with a group of prom-going teens at a bakery in the city's Greektown section.

"This one girl in particular came up to me and she started hyperventilating. Just seeing

that, it's like, "Wow," Patridge said. "A lot of people, they think they already know me."

That may be because her public profile hasn't lessened all that much since "The Hills" wrapped last summer.

Patridge quickly signed up for

have earned spots in "Dream Maker," which stars Patridge as Tracy Jacobs, a Hollywood talent manager.

Patridge's character is inspired by the economic downturn to start a new firm in Detroit to foster fresh talent and contribute to the rejuvenation of the hard-hit city.

"A few years ago, I never would have imagined that I would have had all of these opportunities that I've had," Patridge told The Associated Press in between scenes. "It's been so amazing. I'm very blessed. I've been very busy with work. My dreams are coming true."

On set in a suite on the 28th floor of one of Detroit's casino-hotels, Patridge patiently waits for writer-director K. Asher Levin to set up a shot that involves her looking into the camera and swinging her hair back and forth.

"It should be like Tawny... (pause). You know, from the Whitesnake video," Levin says.

"Kitaen," Patridge says, smiling.

"Tawny Kitaen. Yeah, yeah, yeah," Levin says. "OK. Action on the Tawny stuff!"

Patridge and the rest of the cast and crew have been putting in 12- to 14-hour days, but the experience has "been amazing," she said.

Patridge's co-stars sing her praises, saying she insists on being treated like just another cast member despite her fame. □

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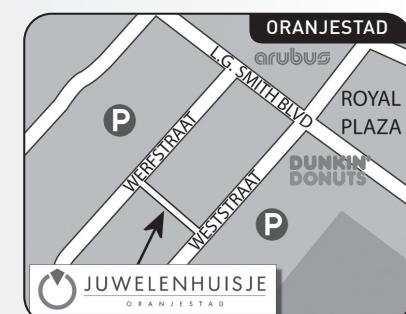
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# Activist or terrorist, rendered in red, white and green

JOHN ANDERSON

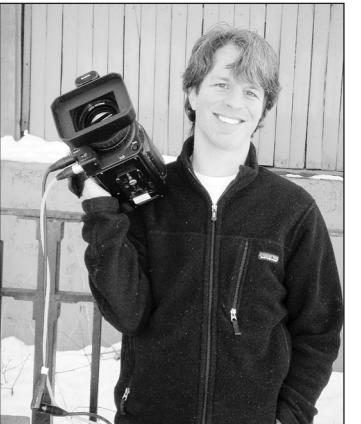
© 2011 New York Times

When Daniel McGowan moved in with his sister after college, he was so passionate about recycling that he took all the labels off her canned food. The problem was, he didn't wait for her to open the cans. "I didn't know if I had soup, or what kind of soup; I don't know if there's peas, or corn," Lisa McGowan said in an interview. "He said, 'I never thought of that.'"

Some would call Daniel McGowan overeager. The government calls him a terrorist. McGowan is the unlikely protagonist of "If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front," the latest film by the documentarian Marshall Curry, whose meta-subject seems to be the existential contradictions of U.S. life. In "Street Fight" he carried his camera into the election battle between the incumbent mayor of Newark, N.J., Sharpe James, and upstart Cory Booker, a contest between African-Americans that somehow became about race. With "Racing Dreams," a largely upbeat film about the hopes of kid race-car drivers in the South, he portrayed NASCAR much the way "Hoops Dreams" did the NBA, as a high-stakes fantasy.

With "If a Tree Falls," Curry performs another balancing act: examining the roots of radical environmentalism, the destruction wrought by the Earth Liberation Front beginning in the mid-'90s and the definition of terror as used by the federal government. In the process he presents a character who defies most of the presumptions, and stereotypes, of terrorism in the post-9/11 world.

An articulate, politically progressive but not overtly passionate New Yorker, the nondescript McGowan is shown padding about his sister's apartment, washing out plastic bags, separating garbage for composting. He talks about the Earth Liberation Front as something he's long forsaken. Then there's a glimpse of his ankle brace-



An undated handout photo of Marshall Curry, director of a documentary, "If a Tree Falls".

(Bill Gallagher via The New York Times)

let. A few words about his court case. All leading up to his eventual relocation, to the place he now calls home: a medium-security federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind. "If a Tree Falls" is not a whodunit. McGowan admits to having participated in arson committed by the front, a group the FBI called America's No. 1 domestic terror threat in 2001, though no one was harmed during its acts of property destruction. "They wanted to give him 330 years for burning down two empty buildings," Lisa McGowan said of her brother, who re-

ism?" he asked, referring to his subject's crimes. "What is terrorism? Is property destruction ever appropriate? What are suitable tactics?"

Successful documentaries have the same needs as successful fiction, including a strong narrative and complex characters. But documentarians also have to recognize the knock of opportunity. In 2005 Curry was working on "Racing Dreams," when his wife told him about a strange day at work: Federal agents had invaded her offices and arrested her employee Daniel McGowan, as part of a nationwide sweep.

"He was a guy I'd met a few times through her, and I had no idea," Curry said. "In fact, when we started shooting the film, he said he hadn't done it. My wife was convinced he hadn't done it. And when you see him, he sure doesn't seem like that kind of guy. But it became clear after a while that that was not the interesting story. The story was why he did it."

There are certainly more charismatic or even dangerous-seeming characters in "If a Tree Falls." They include Jake Ferguson, who insti-

ment was another instance of uncanny circumstance: Curry and his co-director, Sam Cullman, in New York, needed a cinematographer to shoot at the Eugene, Ore., courthouse.

They posted an ad on Craigslist. Lewis answered. On their next visit, Curry recalled, "Tim said, 'Oh, and I have this footage you might be interested in.'"

That footage, some of the film's most galvanizing, includes a 1997 episode in Eugene surrounding the cutting down of old-growth trees for a parking lot. When the cutting was abruptly rescheduled to the day before the City Council was to take up the issue, a confrontation between police and environmentalists ensued.

The not-quite-articulated message of "If a Tree Falls" is that a citizenry deprived of a voice may embrace more drastic measures, even a citizenry as mild as McGowan. Whether those measures amount to terrorism becomes a semantic, and political, argument. Lauren Regan, a member of McGowan's legal team, said the word terrorism had been used politically: "You use such a serious word for something that doesn't live up to most people's expectations of that word, it really diminishes the power and the importance of the word."

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen F. Peifer, one of the prosecutors in the case, called McGowan "a classic example of someone who gradually ratcheted up his radicalism over time."

"I prosecuted one of the most infamous abortion clinic firebombers, Shelley Shannon, and she did the same for that cause," he said.

Citing a decision by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Peifer said, "If you use violence or the threat of violence to further your ideological goals, you're guilty of terrorism." The terrorism provisions under which McGowan was sentenced, he noted, had not been a reaction to 9/11, but to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. □



An undated handout image of Tim Lewis in the documentary film, "If a Tree Falls". The documentary is about the Earth Liberation Front activist Daniel McGowan, who was convicted of arson.

CC(Oscilloscope Laboratories via The New York Times)

ceived a seven-year term but was sentenced under terrorism enhancement provisions of the law, and is thus limited to one visit a month, behind glass. During a recent interview in New York, Curry enumerated questions he hopes to raise. "Is it terror-

gated notorious acts (like the burning of an SUV dealership) before turning informant to avoid prison time. Then there's the activist and filmmaker Tim Lewis, who provides background on radical Northwest environmentalism, and whose involve-

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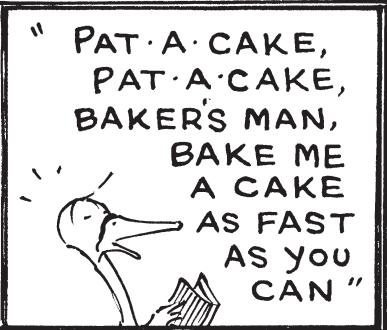
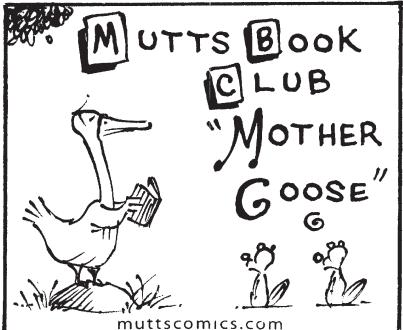
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## 6 Chix



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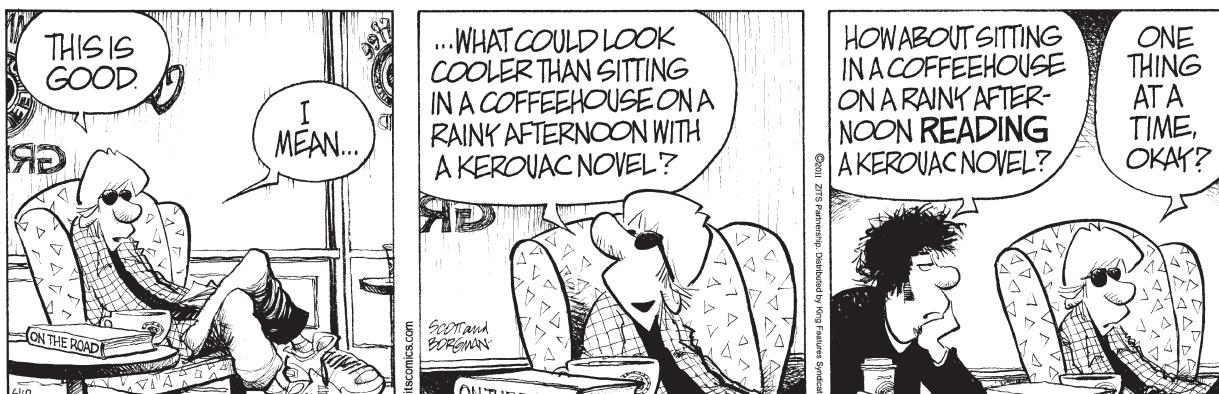
## Mother Goose &amp; Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

3	8	5	9	6	7
6				4	
			8		
7				1	
	6	1	7		9
2					
			7		
3				2	
6	1	4	8	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

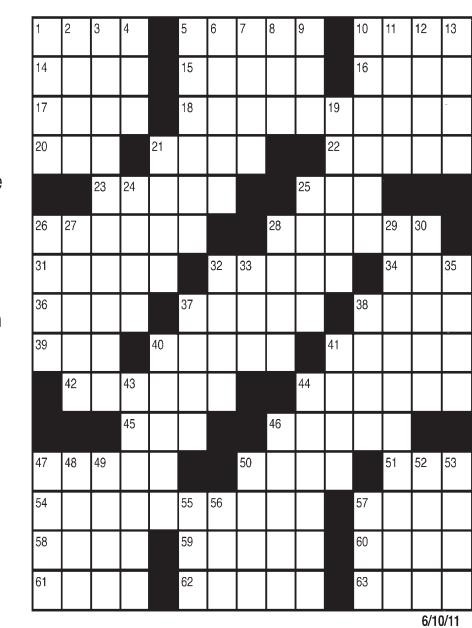
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	1	3	4	8	2	5	6	7
8	4	2	7	6	5	3	1	9
5	7	6	1	3	9	2	4	8
2	9	1	8	4	6	7	3	5
7	8	5	3	9	1	6	2	4
3	6	4	5	2	7	8	9	1
6	2	8	9	5	4	1	7	3
4	5	7	6	1	3	9	8	2
1	3	9	2	7	8	4	5	6

6/10

Yesterday's puzzle answer



6/10/11

## Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	U	B	E	P	I	C	P	S	S	A	L	E
A	T	O	M	F	L	O	R	A	I	B	E	X
B	A	N	E	F	A	T	A	L	C	A	P	
H	E	R	M	I	T	A	G	E	K	E	N	O
R	A	G	E	S	H	E						
U	P	P	I	T	E	M	I	N	I	N	E	
B	A	I	L	S	T	O	G	A	D	E	B	
O	N	L	Y	N	I	X	O	N	H	E	R	B
A	D	O	D	U	D	E	L	E	A	V	E	
T	A	T	T	E	R	E	D	P	O	L	E	D
A	N	T	F	A	L	L						
B	L	O	B	U	N	S	U	L	I	D		
E	A	R	L	R	O	A	S	T	S	M	O	G
N	I	C	E	E	A	G	E	R	H	I	D	E
D	R	A	T	S	H	A	D	Y	T	O	E	

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6/10/11

35 Unable to walk  
37 Windy day toy  
38 Allies' WWII foe  
40 Spring of water  
41 "So be it!"  
43 Delivers an address  
44 Pencil's end  
46 Woodwind

47 Eye flirtatiously  
48 Wooden shoe  
49 Lira replacer  
50 Sulk  
52 Solemn vow  
53 Tactic  
55 Mine discovery  
56 Negative prefix  
57 By way of

# ISS gets 3 new tenants from 3 countries



**MARICIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida**  
(AP) — It's a full house again at the International Space Station.

A Russian capsule carrying three astronauts from three countries docked at the orbiting lab on Thursday. The linkup ended a two-day trip for the Soyuz spacecraft that launched from Kazakhstan. The three new tenants join three others already on board, all of whom will be part of history when NASA flies the shuttle for the last time. Atlantis is set to deliver one last shuttle load of supplies to the space station next month; liftoff is scheduled for July 8. The mission will end 30 years of shuttle flight.

Shuttle Endeavour just ended

The International Space Station (ISS) crew of Japanese astronaut Satoshi Furukawa (top), Russian cosmonaut Sergey Volkov, centre, and U.S. astronaut Michael Fossum, wave before boarding the Soyuz TMA-02M spacecraft at the Baikonur cosmodrome, June 8, 2011.

Associated Press

ed a two-week space station visit. Arriving Thursday for a five-month stay were American Michael Fossum, Russian Sergey Volkov and Japanese Satoshi Furukawa. They join American Ronald Garan Jr. and Russians Andrey Borisenko, the commander, and Alexander Samokutyaev, who have been on board since April. The rendezvous unfolded smoothly, despite a minor thruster problem with the Soyuz. The two craft came together nearly 220 miles above the Atlantic, northeast of Rio de Janeiro. NASA's chief of space opera-

tion, Bill Gerstenmaier, watched the docking from Russian Mission Control outside Moscow. In response to a journalist's question, he said the first private space station delivery could come as early as November. NASA is encouraging U.S. companies to take over cargo runs to the space station and, ultimately, provide rides for crews. In the meantime, American astronauts will continue to ride back and forth on Soyuz spacecraft at a cost of tens of millions of dollars a seat, as NASA turns its attention toward interplanetary travel. □

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## CALIPSO satellite takes 3 billionth image

HAMPTON, Virginia (AP) — A NASA satellite has taken its 3 billionth image of the earth's atmosphere.

The CALIPSO satellite reached the milestone last week. The satellite is tasked with providing insights into the role clouds and airborne particles play in regulating Earth's weather, climate and air quality. The satellite uses light detection and ranging similar to radar that provides NASA with images showing the thickness and composition of clouds and aerosol layers and their altitudes.

In the past five years it has generated data that would fill about 75,000 CDs.

NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton is leading the CALIPSO mission, which is providing information to scientists and researchers from more than 35 countries. CALIPSO is a collaboration between NASA and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, the space agency of France. □

## Ocean science satellite launch postponed in U.S.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) — The launch of a rocket carrying an ocean science satellite has been postponed until Friday.

The Delta 2 rocket was supposed to lift off from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, early Thursday, but NASA says an issue involving the rocket's flight plan needs review. The rocket will put an Argentine-built satellite into orbit 400 miles above the Earth. It will use a NASA instrument called Aquarius to map weekly changes in ocean salt levels. By learning how salt concentration varies on the ocean surface, scientists hope to better predict future climate change and short-term climate phenomena such as El Nino and La Nina.

Other countries participating in the \$400 million mission include Brazil, Canada, France and Italy. □

# Baja actividad en complejo volcánico



SANTIAGO DE CHILE -

Los vuelos internacionales operaban con normalidad en el aeropuerto de Santiago de Chile, donde se había registrado varios retrasos y suspensiones debido a la nube del complejo volcánico Puyehue-Cordón Caulle, cuya actividad ha disminuido en las últimas horas.

La columna de humo provocada por la erupción en el

complejo volcánico Puyehue

- Cordón Caulle en Puyehue, en el sur de Chile afectaron las operaciones aéreas; y las aerolíneas informaron que para hoy prevén reanudar los vuelos a once ciudades del oeste y el sur del país también afectadas por las cenizas del complejo, situado en la cordillera de Los Andes, hito fronterizo con Chile.

(AP Photo/Roberto Can-

## Colombia: buscan a cuatro chinos retenidos por FARC

**BOGOTÁ (AP)** — Unidades del Ejército buscaban el jueves por tierra y aire a cuatro ciudadanos chinos contratistas de la empresa Emerald Energy que fueron secuestrados por presuntos rebeldes de las FARC en una zona del sur colombiano. "Estamos en operaciones ofensivas, de presión y bloqueo... En la operación de búsqueda de estos cuatro ciudadanos chinos que son de la empresa Emerald", dijo en diálogo telefónico con AP el general Javier Flórez, comandante de la llamada Fuerza de Tarea Conjunta Omega que tiene el control del departamento de Caquetá, donde se produjo el secuestro.

Al menos siete milicianos de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), con armas cortas, retuvieron el miércoles la camioneta donde iban los cuatro ciudadanos chinos y su conductor colombiano en una vía entre las localidades de San Vicente del Caguán y Los Pozos, en Caquetá.

El conductor colombiano fue dejado en libertad con el vehículo y llegó a San Vicente del Caguán, unos 280 kilómetros al sur de Bogotá, para dar parte del pliego, agregó el oficial. "No creemos que (los secuestrados) estén todavía con la estructura armada... con la cuadrilla (de las FARC). Están con las milicias", aseguró. Los rehenes son tres operarios y un traductor, agregó.

Emerald Energy, con sede

en Londres y subsidiaria del grupo chino Sinochem, dijo el miércoles por la noche en un breve comunicado que "la razón de la retención no ha sido identificada" y sólo confirmó el pliego de cuatro de sus contratistas. No dio detalles del proyecto de exploración y producción ni las identidades de los plagiados. La empresa no respondió repetidos llamados telefónicos en la jornada. La funcionaria Wei Li, de la oficina de prensa de la embajada de China en Bogotá, confirmó telefónicamente que se trataba de cuatro hombres de ciudadanía china, pero declinó ofrecer detalles por razones de seguridad.

De acuerdo con el Ministerio de Defensa, este es el segundo caso de extranjeros secuestrados en Colombia en lo que va del año. El primer caso fue el de un comerciante venezolano plagiado por un grupo de delincuentes en febrero y liberado a los pocos días, según el ministerio.

En 2010 se reportaron 188 secuestros, 68 de ellos del 1 de enero y el 7 de junio. En el mismo periodo de 2011 se han registrado 74 casos.

El secretario de gobierno del departamento de Caquetá, Edilberto Ramón Endo, dijo en diálogo telefónico que el secuestro es el primero que se reporta en Caquetá en el año y que hasta ahora el mayor problema había sido un incremento de las amenazas de grupos ilegales que piden dinero

para evitar los secuestros.

Endo agregó que la mayoría de esos reportes de extorsión era de comerciantes y ganaderos de la región y que hasta dónde sabía Emerald no estaba entre los extorsionados. El presidente Juan Manuel Santos ha dicho que aquellas empresas colombianas y extranjeras a las que se compruebe que hacen pagos extorsivos a ilegales deberán irse del país. El Ministerio de Minas indicó en un correo electrónico enviado a la AP que Emerald opera desde hace unos cuatro años un campo en el que actualmente explota 12 pozos que producen unos 600 barriles de petróleo diarios. El campo está ubicado en la localidad de Los Pozos, un tradicional fortín de las FARC y que sirvió como escenario a frustrados diálogos de paz entre el gobierno y la guerrilla a inicios de esta década.

Por su parte el coronel Carlos Vargas, comandante de la policía en Caquetá, dijo telefónicamente que los datos que tenían del suceso, por informaciones del conductor, era que los rebeldes interceptaron la camioneta de los trabajadores chinos atravesando otro vehículo y que los ciudadanos chinos tendrían al menos dos meses en la zona. Dijo que los guerrilleros les hicieron colocar sudaderas o camisetas negras y botas plásticas negras y destacó la dificultad de la zona, que es una espesa selva. □

## Opositores piden solución legislativa a ayuno mapuche

**SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP)** — Legisladores opositores plantearon una solución legislativa que permita reducir las condenas a los cuatro mapuches que mantienen una huelga de hambre desde hace 86 días. Los senadores encabezados por el centroizquierdista Jaime Quintana propusieron al gobierno a través del ministro de Justicia, Jaime Bulnes, introducir una indicación en el proyecto de ley que el gobierno presentó al Congreso para aprobar indultos a reos comunes de baja peligrosidad como una forma de reducir la superpoblación carcelaria.

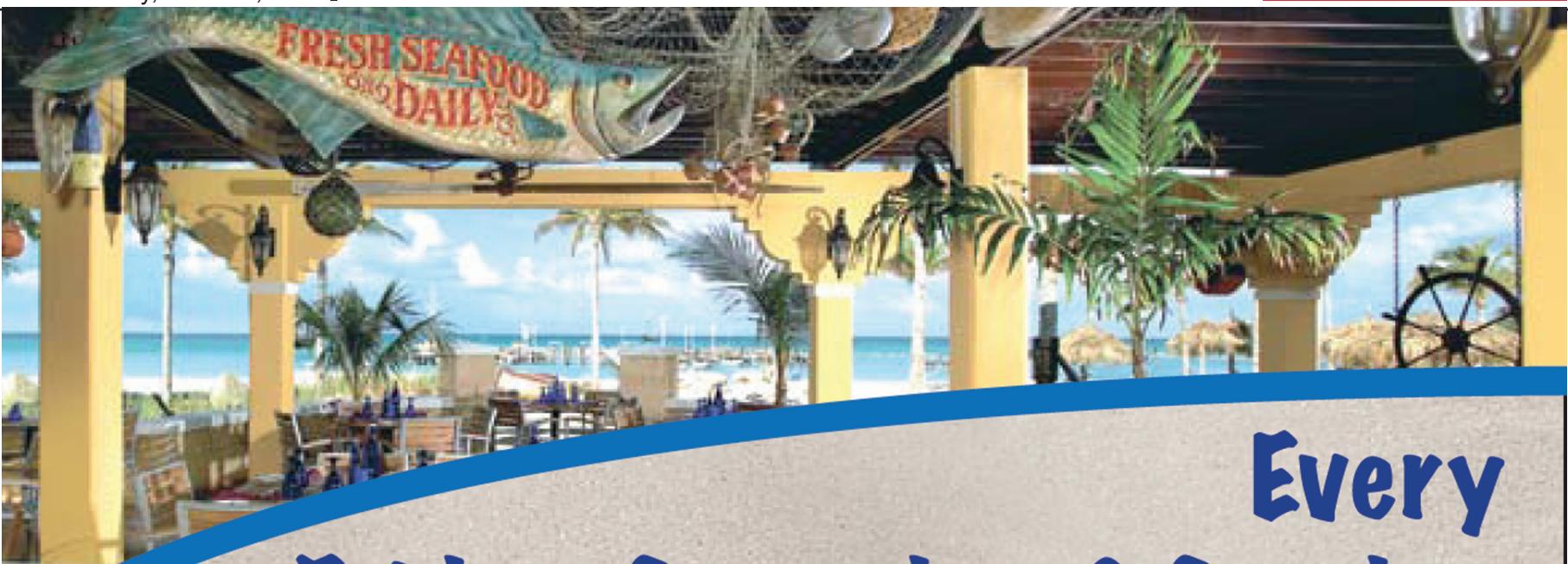
"Le formulé al ministro Bulnes, que es un ministro que se caracteriza por escuchar a todos los sectores y de manera especial a la oposición, una propuesta formal" de incluir en el proyecto una indicación que permita una reducción de las condenas de los cuatro mapuches, dijo Quintana a periodistas.

El gobierno no se ha pronunciado, pero el ministro secretario general de gobierno, Cristián Larroulet, dijo estar "optimista" de que los mapuches depondrán su prolongado ayuno sin dar más precisiones. En tanto el presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal y arzobispo de Santiago, Ricardo Ezzati, dijo que es urgente salvar la vida de los mapuches y que "hay que buscar un camino de salida". □

## Colombia apoya candidatura de mexicano al FMI

**BOGOTÁ (AP)** — Colombia comunicó el miércoles su respaldo a la candidatura del mexicano Agustín Carstens para la dirección del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI). "Colombia expresa su apoyo a la aspiración de Agustín Carstens... e invita a otros gobiernos de las Américas a sumarse al respaldo de esta candidatura", dijo la canciller María Angela Holguín en un comunicado.

El apoyo colombiano se basa en la "necesidad de promover una mayor participación de las economías emergentes de la región" en los organismos multilaterales, señaló la canciller. Carstens, actual gobernador del Banco Central de México, fue propuesto el 22 de mayo para suceder al francés Dominique Strauss-Kahn en la conducción del FMI. Aparte de Carstens, la otra aspirante al FMI es la ministra de Finanzas de Francia, Christine Lagarde. □



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